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MONTANA EMPLOYMENT AND LABORFORCE

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MONTANA EMPLOYMENT AND LABOR FORCE

MONTHLY REPORT

October 1978

STATE OF MONTANA

THOMAS L. JUDGE, GOVERNOR

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Volume 8 Number 10

Produced by:
Research and Analysis
in cooperation with the
U. S. Department of Labor
Employment and Training Administration

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

1. Civilian Labor Force - the number of persons 16 years and older, defined as employed or unemployed, excluding members of the Armed Forces.

2. Employed - those persons who work for pay or profit during a week or, as unpaid family workers, work 15 hours or more during a week. Also included as employed are those who, although not working, had some job attachment and were not looking for work, including persons temporarily absent from a job due to illness, bad weather, vacation, or labor-management dispute, whether or not they were in a pay status during their time off.

3. Unemployment - the number of persons who, for an entire week, did not work at all, were able to work and available for work, and (1) were looking for work or (2) would have looked for work except that (a) they were waiting to return to a job from which they had been laid off, or (b) they were waiting to report to a new wage and salary job scheduled to start within the following 30 days (and were not in school during the week).

4. Unemployment Rate - the number of unemployed expressed as a percent of the civilian labor force.

5. Residence Data - a count of employment by where people live.

6. Establishment Data - a count of employment by where people work.

7. Seasonally Adjusted Labor Force Series - to facilitate the evaluation of the labor force, recurrent yearly movements have been isolated and removed by the Bureau of Labor Statistics seasonal factor method.

8. Composite Index - an aggregate of six leading indicators. The indicators used are: Manufacturing - Employment, Average Weekly Hours, total Accessions and Layoffs; Average Weekly Initial Claims; and statewide Building Permits. A reverse trend was used for Layoffs and Average Weekly Initial Claims. This composite index is in no manner or form comparable to the United States composite index as published in "Business Conditions Digest", U. S. Department of Commerce.

9. Real Spendable Average Weekly Earnings of Private Nonagricultural Production Workers - represents the earnings of a hypothetical individual after deductions for State Income, Federal Income and Social Security taxes, and adjustment for change in purchasing power since 1967. This individual is assumed to be sole support for a family of four, earn the average weekly gross earnings of production workers in Montana's private nonagricultural industries, and take standard deductions on State and Federal income taxes. Taxes were computed using standard tax tables, and purchasing power was adjusted by deflating Spendable Earnings based on the national Consumer Price Index.

10. WIN - Work Incentive Program for Aid to Dependent Children recipients.

11. CETA - Comprehensive Employment and Training Act of 1974.

12. CETA-CEP - Concentrated Employment Program funded under the Comprehensive Employment and Training Act.

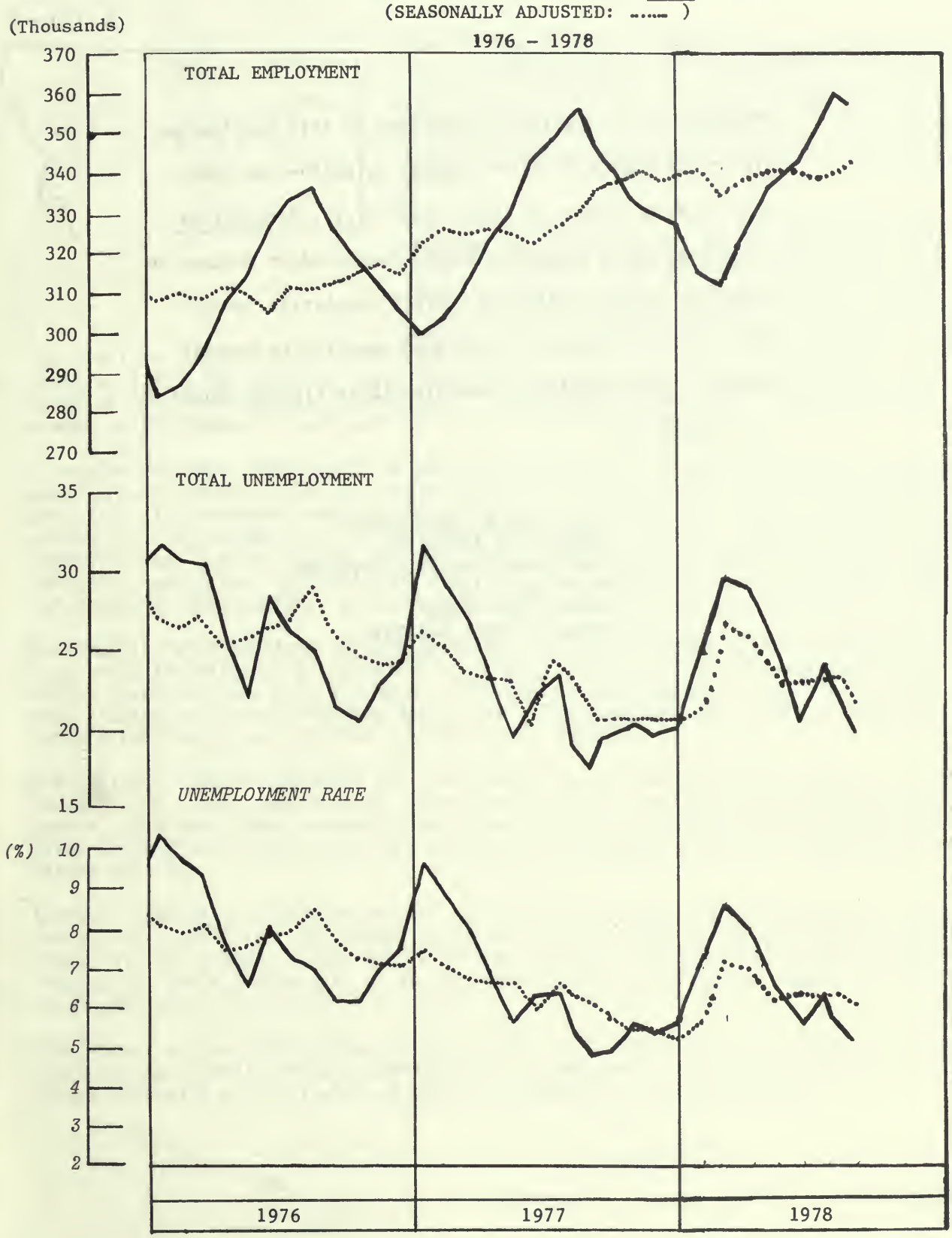
13. SMSA - Standard Metropolitan Statistical Area as determined by Office of Management and Budget. Must have a central city with population of 50,000 or more.

14. LMA - Labor Market Area as determined by the Montana Employment Security Division consists of a central city or cities with population of less than 50,000, and the economically integrated geographical area surrounding it.

MONTANA EMPLOYMENT, UNEMPLOYMENT, AND UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

(NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED: _____)
(SEASONALLY ADJUSTED: .....)

1976 - 1978



All Labor Force Statistics contained in this publication are in accordance with the Federal guidelines as established by the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Methodology procedures use a household sample conducted in Montana on a monthly basis, called the Current Population Survey. These official statistics are used to allocate federal funding. Any questions concerning these figures should be directed to:

Dick Gibson, Supervisor
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P. O. Box 1728
Helena, MT 59601
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STATEWIDE HIGHLIGHTS

Seasonal declines were noted in some labor force figures during September, but they were accompanied by noteworthy improvements in the unemployment rates for the state and most of its component areas. The improvement in such statistics over last year's levels signifies the generally good condition of the state's economy.

The jobless rate of 4.7% is a positive sign when compared to the rates of 5.2% for August and 5.9% for July. It is also a considerable improvement over last September's 5.5%. The unemployed now number 17,100 a drop of 1,800 from August's figure and much better than the 19,400 tallied for September of 1977. The civilian labor force is 2.7% larger than it was a year ago and its employed portion is up by 3.6%. The civilian labor force did decline by 12,000 from August to September's level of 365,400 a seasonal contraction. Employment losses were 9,400 during the month, as the number of employed individuals now totals 348,300.

A hearing was held recently on the possible shut-down of a transcontinental railroad which crosses Montana. The bankruptcy trustee, railroad staff, federal and state officials all presented views on the closure. The railroad is deeply in debt and according to the trustee cannot afford continual losses. Various scenarios of continued operation were then presented including the possibility of employee ownership, federal financing, and sale of a portion of the line. The meeting was billed as being only an informational presentation, so perhaps the future will bring more concrete developments.

Canadian oil will continue to flow to Montana refineries under a recent agreement announced by the National Energy Board of Canada. Montana's refineries are very dependent on Canadian crude oil, at least until some transportation system is established to move Alaskan oil inland from the West Coast. The agreement, in effect, means that the state's refineries can continue operating into the 1980's.

Agricultural harvests dominate the developments on the farm and ranch scene. The grain harvests are nearly complete and indications are that the crop was better than last year's. The sugar beet harvest campaign has started in various parts of the state. Other activities include that field preparation and seeding which can take place before winter sets in.

Economic indicators show some promise for the state's economy, but they must be interpreted very carefully. The composite index is up slightly for August but trend analysis shows only the steady, stable nature of the economy. Real spendable wages were down for August, but for a change most of the decrease can be attributed to a decline in gross wages, and not inflation.

The Montana economy shows some positive movement in labor force statistics, but these gains may be slightly offset economically by a continued loss of real wages. The steady, stable expansion of the state's economy is, however, very encouraging.

GREAT FALLS SMSA (Cascade County)

Employment and Unemployment Situation:

The civilian labor force continued its seasonal contraction but is also smaller than it was last September. The figure for the civilian labor force is now 33,500 or 5.9% below last year's 35,600. There are 900 fewer persons in the civilian labor force than there were in August. Employment is calculated to be 31,400 currently, a 6.0% drop from September of 1977 and 600 lower than August's 32,000 tally.

The unemployment rate for September is 6.3% for the SMSA, a drop from August's 6.5% but slightly higher than the 6.2% recorded in September of last year. The number of unemployed appears to be the most stable labor force statistic as it is at 2,100 compared to 2,200 for both last August, and September of 1977. The unemployment situation is not promising, however, when compared to the rest of the state. While the statewide rate has dropped from 5.5% to 4.7% in the past year the calculation for the Great Falls area has moved slightly up from 6.2% to 6.3%.

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

Even as the seasons change and winter approaches, the construction sector appears to be in full swing. The large missile upgrade project has resumed after a delay due to mechanical imperfections in the equipment. The contractor expects 70% of the work force to soon be back on the job. In a somewhat related development announcements were made in Washington, D.C. of the passage of a bill allocating $4.6 million for the repair of missile transporter erector roads in north central Montana. Work has commenced on a large bridge project on a major thoroughfare in the city of Great Falls. Other smaller projects including retail stores and housing construction are continuing.

The brief nationwide labor dispute involving railroad clerks idled about 100 area workers for a day or so, with little economic loss. A longer dispute could have, however, seriously affected the wholesale and distribution establishments in the area.

Building permits took a drop during August, both in number and in value. The large drop in value is particularly notable because just the inflationary effect since last year should have caused it to rise.

Agricultural interests have finished most harvests and are now concentrating on field preparation and other activities as weather permits. The placement of farm workers by the local Job Service office has been steady during the period.

Wholesale and retail sectors have also noted a steady demand for workers. This should pick up soon as the buying surge for the Christmas season commences.

BILLINGS SMSA (Yellowstone County)

Employment and Unemployment Situation:

The normal seasonal drop in the labor force and employment occurred this month as students returned to school and summer workers were laid off. The labor force for September totaled 50,500; 500 less than August's 51,000. September showed a large decline of 6.3% from September 1977's 53,900. Employment also followed the pattern with 48,600 people listed this month, down 200 from last month's 48,800 and 5.6% less than last year's 51,500.

The unemployment rate continued declining from last month and last year. This month's figure of 3.8% compared favorably with August's 4.2% and last September's 4.4%. The number of unemployed persons in the Billings area was 1,900, with 2,200 in August and 2,400 a year ago. Although the busy summer season for agriculture and construction is drawing to a close, Billings has enough diversification to keep the economy progressing unlike some of the less populated areas, with more seasonal industries.

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

The sugar beet harvest is the important agricultural project this time of year, and is expected to begin early in October when the farmers will start hauling to the dumps. Sugar content and weight both improved with the hot days in September. Grain harvesting and haying are mainly completed, with livestock handling and general farm work continuing.

Building permits for September totaled 139, including 39 single family residences and 4 duplexes, for a total value of over $2 million. Last September, however, 170 permits were issued, valued at over $4 million. Some proposed construction includes two 10-story, 50 unit apartment towers, a tire supply shop, a 120 acre project south of the city for light industry, offices, stores and housing, and in Laurel, a $686,700 new post office. In addition, several businesses are remodeling and expanding. Heavy rains during the first part of this period slowed construction somewhat, but since then the weather has been most favorable for all outdoor activity.

New business openings include restaurants, credit union offices, bakery, service stations, printing shop and department store. New enterprises such as these continue to provide employment opportunities for people in the area, many needing from 3 to 15 workers and some as many as 100 or more.

Canada has announced they will continue to export crude oil at 1978 levels until 1981. Canadian crude oil is the main source keeping the local refineries supplied. A parcel delivery service is expecting to add employees for the holiday season and plans a warehouse expansion next year. Some possible new businesses planning on a Billings location include coal development, airlines application for routing, and a banking corporation applying to open a second bank. This is a fast growing area with approximately 52,400 people working in the Billings area alone. The service industry employs the largest number of persons with retail and wholesale trade next in job opportunities. The outlook for this trade area is most optimistic and continuing growth appears certain.

ANACONDA-BUTTE LMA

Employment and Unemployment Situation:

The labor force situation in the Anaconda-Butte area has improved in some respects this month. Civilian labor force for September counted 36,300 persons, compared with August's 37,700, but showing a 4.9% gain from the 34,600 in September 1977. Employment also showed a drop from last month's 34,900 to this month's 34,100, and improved 5.6% from last September's 32,300. The steady growth pattern over the year seems to be continuing, with the normal end-of-summer season slowing the economy for the month.

In spite of some layoffs, the September figure of 2,200 unemployed was still less than both last month's 2,800 and last year's 2,300. The unemployment rate, although one of the higher in the state, continues to decline standing at 6.2%, while it was 7.5% in August and 6.7% last September.

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

Agriculture is nearing the end of a busy season. Early in the period heavy rains slowed haying and grain harvesting, but better weather returned and field work resumed. Other activities include potato harvesting, irrigating, fencing, and livestock handling.

Silver Bow County recorded 27 building permits in September compared with 30 in September 1977. This included housing, new and remodeled, and some commercial building. The new test facility being built south of Butte is about 50% completed and $30 million has recently been awarded to the energy research unit to operate and manage the facility for three years.

In Dillon, approximately 15 to 20 persons were employed on a new metal building for a hardware store, an office building, and burying 430 feet of telephone cable. Work was continuing on the auditorium roof and a new room at the college. Thirty-five new homes are either just finished or under construction in and around Dillon. All major construction projects in the Anaconda-Deer Lodge area are nearing completion.

Some less favorable developments were noted; 25 truck drivers were laid off by a mining company, various small work stoppages were called at the test facility construction site, and a labor dispute lasting about 10 days between Butte-Silver Bow fire fighters and city-county government idled 36 persons directly and many others indirectly.

Several new businesses have opened in the Deer Lodge, Anaconda and Butte areas. Retail establishments are preparing for the busy holiday season and will be needing some part-time amd full-time workers. Full-time hospital nurses of all types are in demand in the Butte area, and a mining company in New Mexico has been recruiting miners and underground mine mechanics from those laid off in this area. Some of the smaller mines in the Deer Lodge and Philipsburg districts are needing experienced workers, and a few mineral, oil and gas exploration surveys are being conducted which may result in more employment. A major railroad has hired 30 maintenance people for the Deer Lodge division, and various departmental representatives of other railroads have been inspecting operations recently in regard to the pending shut-down and possible take over of the Montana railroad.

BOZEMAN LMA

Employment and Unemployment Situation:

The labor force moved down 1,000 from July and 700 from August to a level of 28,900. September 1977's labor force of 24,500 was 18.0% less than the current level. Employment dropped to 28,100 from 28,600 in August, but was above September 1977's figure of 23,500.

The 800 unemployed workers were counted 200 less than August and 300 less than July with an improvement over last year's 1,000. September's unemployment rate of 3.0% was lower than August's 3.3%, July's 3.7%, and one year ago's 3.9%.

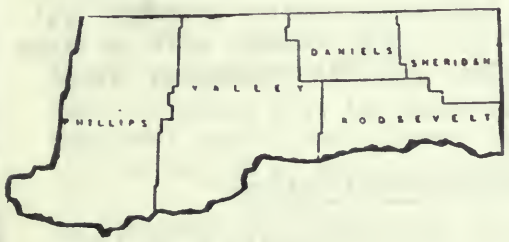
Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

Residential homes and apartment complexes were the major share of Bozeman's economic activity. The small grain harvest, although delayed by wet weather, is nearly complete and 75% of the potato crop is reported in. Returning college students have created demand in both the food service and clerical areas.

Annual layoffs began in much of the tourist related industry. However, the major railroad recalled 30 of its maintenance crew workers. This recall followed a four-day shutdown at the Livingston depot, which ended when a federal judge's back-to-work order was obeyed by the 22 local picketers. The 28 striking men at a Livingston lumber mill have gone back to work with contract negotiations still pending.

About 180 youth aged 14 to 18 from the Bozeman LMA were involved in an 8 week federal program. They received on-the-job training at public and private non-profit firms.

GLASGOW LMA



Employment and Unemployment Situation:

The number of unemployed persons dropped by 200 during September to a figure of 600. This level is also lower than last year's jobless calculation of 900. The unemployment rate of 3.7% for September compares very favorably with last month's 4.9% and last year's September rate of 4.7%. However, the labor force and employment statistics show a contracting economy for the area. The civilian labor force is at 16,500 persons, a 6.8% decrease from last September's 17,700 level.

Employment is also down to 15,900 a 5.4% drop from last year. Mixed implications are certainly obvious when the labor force is contracting while the unemployment rate improves.

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

The harvest has been completed in the area with generally good reports on crop yields and weights. The protein content is also up from grain harvested earlier. Elevators and on-farm storage facilities are full as shipments of grain await the arrival of railroad cars.

GLASGOW LMA (Cont.)

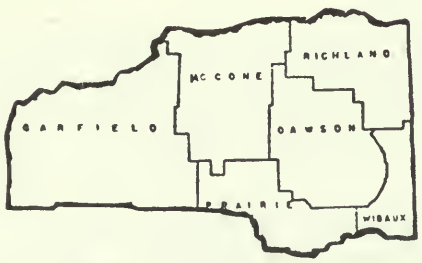
Some farm jobs are available as fall activities continue amid excellent weather conditions.

Construction activity also is at a peak as partial completion of most projects is necessary to continue such work in the winter. A large water storage tank is being erected in Glasgow and the new building for a federal land agency should be closed in soon. A refinery south of Wolf Point is in the midst of expanding its capacity of 1,000 barrels a day. Announcements have been made for a motel/convention center tentatively scheduled to be constructed west of Glasgow in the spring.

The annual meeting of the industrial park was recently held with promising news announced. The park is operating in the black according to reports released and several prospective tenants are negotiating leases.

A demand for workers has surfaced in varied occupations in the LMA. The packing plant and Bentonite plant, both near Glasgow, have been hiring lately. Oil exploration openings have been noted in the Wolf Point area and replacements are being hired for students on railroad track crews.

GLENDIVE LMA



Employment and Unemployment Situation:

The civilian labor force and employment both show declines from last month and last year. Labor force for September counted 14,500 persons while there were 15,400 in August and 14,800 last year, a 2.0% change.

Employment in September also decreased more from August than from a year ago, totaling 14,200 this month, 15,000 last month and a 1.4% drop from September 1977's 14,400. The decline from last month is a normal seasonal adjustment.

The Glendive labor market area has the smallest unemployment rate in the state and ties for fewest unemployed for this month. The rate at 2.3% is down from 2.8% calculated in August and 2.6% a year ago. Unemployed numbered 300 in September compared with 400 last month and last year both. This situation suggests a fairly stable economy, with no large projects to cause a rapid increase in the labor force, and a possible subsequent higher unemployment problem.

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

This time of year the entire labor market area concentrates on sugar beets, harvesting, and processing. The harvest is about completed and the factory has started slicing on a limited basis. The railroad labor dispute caused some problems but fortunately did not last long. Some shortage of plant workers and truck drivers is noted also. The crop is excellent this year, and with a contract for next year signed, the growers were pleased with the progress of the industry.

Construction is continuing with some demand for experienced helpers. Some oilfield construction was underway, and in Sidney a bar and game room business, credit union building, retirement home, veterans club and residential housing are all progressing well.

GLENDIVE LMA (Cont.)

A new restaurant is installing fixtures as the last undertaking before opening. An electrical substation costing $700,000 is nearly completed northwest of Culbertson. All local workers were hired for construction but the facility will not need any employees for operation. In spite of the residential building taking place, there is a shortage of rentals, and housing is expensive in the Sidney area. In Glendive, 9 building permits were issued in September, including houses, garages, remodeling, and a new restaurant.

Oil exploration continues, with some need for seismograph workers. Wholesale and retail trade has been good in businesses related to sugar production, harvesting and oilfield activities such as eating and drinking places, hotels, service stations, and equipment suppliers. Clothing sales have passed their pre-school peak but will probably improve as the holiday season approaches. Some shortages of medical personnel, mechanics and restaurant workers were noted and replacements for students returned to school may still be needed.

HARDIN-RED LODGE LMA

Employment and Unemployment Situation:

Improving unemployment conditions were noted in the LMA during September. The jobless rate of 3.3% was a considerable improvement over August's 4.2% and much better than last September's 4.9%. The number of unemployed persons is now 400, 200 less than August and also 200 less than September of 1977's count.

The labor force contracted during the month to a level of 12,300 or 1,400 less than the 13,700 calculation for August. Employment, however, dropped by only 200 and now totals 11,900. This figure is also an improvement over the 11,800 persons who were employed in September of 1977. The labor force statistics denote the seasonal contraction, but more importantly seem to indicate that conditions are better than the same time last year.

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

A coal mine near Red Lodge which employs 11 persons has shut down. The out-of-state owners contend that the suspension of operations is due to permit provisions, while the employees report that union organizing activities may have caused the closure. The firm is planning to be back in operation in the near future, however.

Agricultural work continued in full swing as excellent weather conditions prevailed. While other harvests have been completed, the sugar beet campaign is at its peak. A bill setting sugar prices is before Congress and the outcome may determine the figure of the crop in the area.

The tourist season in Red Lodge is in a brief lull between the summer peak and the beginning of the ski season. Snowmaking equipment has been installed at the ski area, bolstering expectations of a good winter economy.

HAVRE LMA

Employment and Unemployment Situation:

The unemployment rate for the LMA fell to 3.6% during September, well below August's 4.7% rate and July's 5.2% rate. The number of jobless persons is now 400, down from last months figure of 600.

The improving conditions noted above are being caused by a contraction of the labor force. The civilian labor force for the LMA now numbers 12,500 individuals a 6.7% drop from last September's 13,400. The number of employed persons is at 12,100, a similar 5.5% lower than last September's 12,800, and a drop of 600 from August's level of 12,700. The statistics indicate a smaller labor force and economy for the LMA, but with a better percentage of persons gainfully employed.

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

The economy of the Havre LMA continued to be highlighted by its stability and gradual expansion. The major project in the area is a shopping center in Havre which is in various stages of development, with some store openings scheduled for November. About 600 persons will be employed at the site when the facility is finished.

The brief nationwide railroad labor dispute idled area workers for a day or so, but normal operations quickly resumed, with no lasting impact felt.

Agriculture activity has passed its peak, but many activities continue as weather allows. The harvest has been completed but seeding, haying, fallowing, and feeding are taking place. A demand for farm workers has been evident at times during the period.

Exploration drilling is still occurring throughout the area as the search for oil and gas intensifies. The passage of the energy bill by Congress including the provisions for natural gas pricing should step up the pace in exploration.

Job opportunities in the area have been observed in some fields. Farm workers are being placed as activities continue; while the construction, retail, and service fields are hiring.

HELENA LMA

Employment and Unemployment Situation:

September's employment of 25,900 is 500 less than August but is 5.7% higher than last year's 24,500. The civilian labor force also contracted from 28,400 in July to 27,800 in August to 27,100 in September. Last year's labor force level was 25,900.

Unemployment followed a seasonal trend downward, dropping 200 per month from July's 1,600 to reach 1,200. The jobless rate also decreased each of the past three months, starting with 5.5% in July and ending with 4.4% in September. The rate for last August was 4.9% and last year 5.4%.

HELENA LMA (Cont.)

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

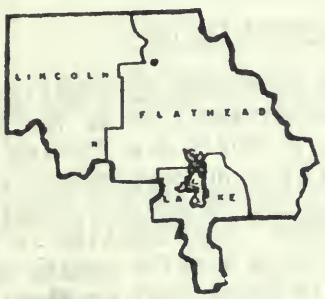
The Indian Summer weather has kept activity at a higher than normal level. Several small construction projects have begun and if the weather stays mild they should be enclosed before the freeze up. Residential and remodeling work remained the mainstay in the industry.

The controversy continued over proposed plans for a Helena shopping center. Delayed decisionary processes are estimated to be affecting approximately $70 million in revenue lost to out-of-town buying.

Employment activity spurred by the Indian Summer and returning college students has remained brisk. There is still a need in the clerical and service related industries. Government hiring has reached near normal levels and the major communication company has been recruiting. With most of the crops in and the mild weather granting ranchers the opportunity to complete their own work, agricultural hiring remained low.

Several businesses including a bank, an intrastate airline, two grocery outlets, and a fast foods restaurant have opened or plan to in the near future. Helena lost one business, however, when a bakery plant closed operations. Uneconomic production standards were the cause for laying off 25 employees with an annual payroll of $250,000.

KALISPELL LMA



Employment and Unemployment Situation:

The civilian labor force figure probably best relates the growth of this LMA in the past year. The September civilian labor force of 37,100 is 14.5% above last September's 32,400 level. The September statistic is a slight drop from August's 37,900, but that is a normal occurrence. Employment shows a 14.1% increase over last year to a current figure of 34,700. This is a slight drop of 600 from August's statistic.

The jobless rate for the area is now at 6.5% showing continuing improvement from August's 6.8%. Comparison with last year's rates show a decrease, as last September's rate was 8.0%. The number of unemployed individuals is 200 less than both a month and a year ago, at a level of 2,400 for the LMA.

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

Construction projects underway in the area are busy trying to finish much work before seasonal shutdowns. A courthouse remodeling project is on schedule in Libby, as is a $1.2 million sewer, curb, and street project in the same city. A large contract was awarded for a sewer plant in Glacier National Park during the month. Retail store and home construction continues throughout the area. A court order has, however, halted a re-regulation project at Libby Dam idling about 35 workers.

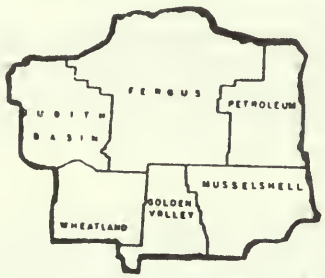
The wood products industry, the mainstay of the area's economy, continues on a stable course. There have been some shutdowns of small plants at times, and a large Libby firm will have its normal one week closure for maintenance with resultant layoffs. The timber harvest has continued despite some brief weather related stoppages.

KALISPELL LMA (Cont.)

Agricultural activities include the potato harvest, the apple harvest, and soon the Christmas tree harvest. Other field activities continue as weather permits. Some wet, cool weather has hampered certain activities, but no substantial delays have occurred.

The retail and service industries continue to experience a good year with activity persisting in most sectors. A demand for clerical workers and some skilled trade occupations have been noted at times in the area.

LEWISTOWN LMA



Employment and Unemployment Situation:

The jobless situation in the Lewistown area continues to be very good and also very stable. The number of unemployed persons dropped by 100 to a level of 300 during September, a calculation that is also lower than last September's 400. The unemployment rate is 3.3% compared with August's 3.9% and a 3.5% rate for September of 1977. The civilian labor force has, however, grown smaller in the past twelve months. The number of employed persons is now at 10,100, a 5.0% drop from the 10,600 noted for last September. This figure is also down 800 from August's 10,900. The civilian labor force is at 10,400 a gain of 100 from last month, but 5.5% lower than the 11,000 tallied in September of 1977.

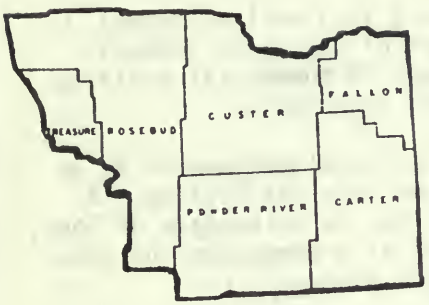
Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

The bankruptcy of a transcontinental railroad serving the area continues to highlight the economic news. A major hearing in Helena with the court appointed trustee for the line indicates that a mounting debt and its inability to earn a profit are forcing the railroad to close. There does appear to be some possibility of saving portions of the line through varied schemes of employee ownership, federal aid, and so forth. Hopefully, service to the area will at least be picked up by another carrier. Construction is progressing in the area as winter approaches. The workers on a large missile update project have been called back to work after a mid-summer shutdown due to mechanical problems with the equipment. The project's employment level should reach 400 in October and then begin to decline as completion is expected during the winter. A bank, a fast food outlet, and a chain grocery store are underway and in various stages of construction. Other construction projects continue as weather permits.

The agricultural sector is in good shape with the harvest completed and some field activities being concluded before the arrival of inclement weather. There is some concern over the above anticipated railroad closure and its effect on agricultural shipments from the LMA.

Little hiring has been occurring in any sectors as the stable economy of the area subsides slightly as winter approaches.

MILES CITY LMA



Employment and Unemployment Situation:

The Miles City LMA is undergoing a contraction of its civilian labor force and employment level. The labor force is down 900 from July and 700 from August, employment is also down 700 from August. The total labor force in September was 14,800 with 14,200 of them holding jobs.

Although unemployment was 700 in July, it coincided at 600 during August, September, and September one year ago. The unemployment rate for September was 3.8% as compared to 4.0% in August and 3.7% in September 1977.

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

A miniature shopping mall and remodeling project has begun in downtown Miles City. Cement availability and mild weather has returned construction plans to schedule, with the exception of the paving project.

Three businesses have opened in Miles City and several others expect opening dates in the near future. Other employment opportunities should arise from the Senior Community Service Employment Program, which provides on-the-job training for persons age 55 or older.

The livestock trading center has had consistently strong market prices with certain classes being the highest in years. The area farmers have also reported near completion of the harvest.

Railroad traffic was delayed one day when about 21 clerks from the national railroad walked off the job, a temporary restraining order issued has ended the picketing.

MISSOULA LMA

Employment and Unemployment Situation:

The labor force dropped 100 from August to 52,200 this September as compared to 46,100 one year ago. Employment was down 400 from July but up 300 from August at a level of 49,500. **Last year's employment was at 42,800.**

Unemployment has followed a downward trend starting with 3,600 in July, 3,100 in August and ending at 2,700 for September; the 1977 figure was 3,300. The jobless rate for September is 5.2% as contrasted by 7.1% in 1977 and 5.8% in August.

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

The construction industry continued at high levels throughout the area. Hamilton began a street paving project and work is planned to begin on a plastics firm. Missoula construction is also busy with a new medical center, a $4.6 million manor for the elderly and handicapped, and a traffic signal and lighting system.

MISSOULA LMA (Cont.)

Future expectations are favorable with the announcements for a $3.3 million school addition and a $4 million increase in the construction budget of the major communication corporation. Also during September 124 residential and 22 commercial building permits were issued. Real estate sales were up for the month reportedly.

The seasonal changes had a mixed impact upon the area. Agricultural employment is up with apple picking, the potato harvest in full swing, and some late hay cutting. A federal forest agency laid off 25 of its seasonal workers. Due to a shortage of logs, a local sawmill laid off 15 of its workers. Production crews of a manufacturing company have been temporarily laid off while reorganization takes place.

Picketing has been resumed against a trucking firm, although the labor dispute began several months ago. The nurses walkout shows further developments since the the last talks in July with an appeal for unemployment benefits.

The recent wet weather has caused a slowdown of outdoor work and the business activity has tapered off.

SHELBY-CUT BANK LMA

Employment and Unemployment Situation:

As in many other parts of the state, this labor market area is slowing down now that the busy summer is over. The labor force at 18,500 slipped from 20,100 in August but showed a 1.1% gain from the 18,300 recorded last September. Employment followed the same pattern, dropping to 17,600 this month from last month's 19,000 but it is still 1.1% above last year's 17,400. This shows the normal decline at the end of the outdoor season, but indicates a slight growth from last year.

The number of unemployed was slightly less this month at 900, than the 1,100 listed in August, but was the same as recorded a year ago. The unemployment rate of 4.8% was less than both the 5.1% calculated in September 1977, and the 5.5% last month.

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

A shortage of harvest workers was noted early in the period, but with the cutting almost completed the demand now is for general farm workers to seed and summer fallow. The weather was favorable later in the month and an above average yield was reported in all areas that escaped hail.

Construction projects in all stages of completion were keeping many people employed, with calls for pipeline workers among others. A new church in Shelby has the exterior work almost finished, and in Cut Bank a civic center and senior citizens building are almost completed, with a shopping center slated to begin construction shortly. Twenty-six building permits were issued in Cut Bank in September, including a multi-family dwelling valued at $500,000.

Wholesale and retail trade in the whole area has been steady with an above average season. A continuing need for restaurant and motel workers shows this sector to be a good source of employment. A demand for all types of nurses in the service sector is noted, and oilfield activity has increased the need for oil well service workers. This essentially agricultural area will slow down to some extent until spring but trade and services should maintain a steady pace with extra activity during the holiday season.

MANPOWER PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

SEPTEMBER 1978

Program	New Enrollees	Job Placements	End of Month Enrollment
WIN	219	112	2134
CETA-CEP	64	36	204
CETA-INST.	57	35	266
CETA-OJT	10	59	97
JOB CORPS	44	16	370
PSE TITLE II	22	30	225
PSE TITLE VI	65	52	692
PSE TITLE VI-A	63	66	542
CETA - AWE	22	16	71
STIP	--	--	13
HIRE II	40	6	104

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX - U. S.[1/]

(1967 = 100)

Group	AUGUST 1978	*Percent Change From:* JULY 1978	AUGUST 1977
All Items	197.7	*.5*	*7.9*

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE UNEMPLOYED[2/]

SEPTEMBER 1978

Social Characteristics	*Percent of Total Covered Unemployment*
Non-White	*12.5%*
Female	*52.3*
Youth	*8.8*
Over 45	*21.1*

1/ The Consumer Price Index measures changes in prices of goods and services bought by urban wage earners and clerical workers, including families and single persons.

MONTANA CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE

NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

(in Thousands)

Date	Civilian Labor Force	EMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT			Labor Management Dispute 2/
		Total	Non-Ag	Agri.	Total	Percent 1/ Montana	Percent 1/ U. S.	
1976								
January	307.5	283.1	262.2	20.9	24.4	7.9	8.8	*
February	309.0	286.1	263.0	23.1	22.9	7.4	8.7	*
March	317.0	294.2	266.1	28.1	22.8	7.2	8.1	*
April	325.9	306.8	271.8	35.0	19.1	5.9	7.4	*
May	329.6	313.0	276.7	36.3	16.6	5.0	6.7	*
June	345.5	324.2	282.5	41.7	21.3	6.2	8.0	.1
July	354.4	334.8	289.9	44.9	19.6	5.5	7.8	.1
August	357.4	338.6	290.2	48.4	18.8	5.3	7.6	.1
September	344.7	327.9	289.9	38.0	16.8	4.9	7.4	.1
October	333.8	316.9	284.4	32.5	16.9	5.1	7.2	.1
November	331.2	311.8	283.6	28.2	19.4	5.9	7.4	.1
December	328.1	306.7	282.3	24.4	21.4	6.5	7.4	.1
1976 Avg.	332.0	312.0	278.6	33.4	20.0	6.1	7.7	.1
1977								
January	316.7	291.7	269.1	22.6	25.0	7.9	8.3	.1
February	320.3	294.9	270.1	24.8	25.4	7.9	8.5	.1
March	328.4	303.0	273.1	29.9	25.4	7.7	7.9	.1
April	336.5	313.9	276.9	37.0	22.6	6.7	6.9	.1
May	340.4	319.8	281.6	38.2	20.6	6.1	6.4	.1
June	356.1	333.6	290.1	43.5	22.5	6.3	7.5	.2
July	364.4	342.4	295.9	46.5	22.0	6.0	7.0	3.3
August	371.4	350.2	300.4	49.8	21.2	5.7	6.8	.2
September	355.7	336.3	297.5	38.8	19.4	5.5	6.6	.1
October	346.0	327.2	294.2	33.0	18.8	5.4	6.3	.5
November	342.1	321.7	293.3	28.4	20.4	6.0	6.4	.1
December	337.9	317.1	292.7	24.4	20.8	6.1	6.0	.2
1977 Avg.	343.0	321.0	286.3	34.7	22.0	6.4	7.0	.4
1978								
January	332.1	305.2	282.7	22.5	26.9	8.1	7.0	.2
February	341.3	311.3	286.8	24.5	30.0	8.8	6.9	.2
March	350.6	321.6	292.2	29.4	29.0	8.3	6.6	*
April	358.1	334.9	299.9	35.0	23.2	6.5	5.8	*
May	341.7	341.1	305.1	36.0	20.6	5.7	5.5	*
June	379.3	354.3	313.2	41.1	25.0	6.6	6.2	.4
July	381.2	356.8	314.8	44.0	22.4	5.9	6.3	.2
August	377.4	357.7	310.7	47.0	19.7	5.2	5.8	.1
September	365.4	348.3	311.6	36.7	17.1	4.7	6.0	.1
October	355.4	338.9	307.7	31.2	16.5	4.6		.1
November								
December								
Avg.								

1/ *Computed from whole (unrounded) numbers.* *Series began January 1970.*

2/ *Non-additive - included in total employment.* *Revised to 1977 Benchmarks.*

* *Under 50.* *Current month in italics is a forecast; previous month preliminary.*

RESIDENCE DATA

Table II

GREAT FALLS SMSA (CASCADE COUNTY)

Civilian Labor Force

NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

(in Thousands)

CURRENT POPULATION SURVEY DATA

Date	Civilian Labor Force	EMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT			Labor Management Dispute 2/
		Total	Non-Ag	Agri.	Total	Percent 1/ County	Percent 1/ State	
1976								
January	29.5	27.2	26.4	.8	2.3	*7.9*	*7.9*	*
February	29.7	27.5	26.6	.9	2.2	*7.3*	*7.4*	*
March	30.8	28.5	27.4	1.1	2.3	*7.3*	*7.2*	*
April	30.8	28.9	27.5	1.4	1.9	*6.2*	*5.9*	*
May	31.1	29.3	27.9	1.4	1.8	*5.6*	*5.0*	*
June	32.4	30.0	28.4	1.6	2.4	*7.5*	*6.2*	*
July	32.6	30.5	28.7	1.8	2.1	*6.6*	*5.5*	*
August	32.8	30.8	28.9	1.9	2.0	*6.0*	*5.3*	*
September	31.8	30.1	28.6	1.5	1.7	*5.3*	*4.9*	*
October	31.9	30.1	28.8	1.3	1.8	*5.6*	*5.1*	*
November	32.0	30.1	29.0	1.1	1.9	*6.0*	*5.9*	*
December	30.2	28.3	27.3	1.0	1.9	*6.3*	*6.5*	*
1976 Avg.	31.3	29.3	28.0	1.3	2.0	*6.5*	*6.1*	*
1977								
January	31.8	29.7	28.8	.9	2.1	*6.6*	*7.9*	*
February	32.9	30.9	29.9	1.0	2.0	*6.1*	*7.9*	*
March	33.5	31.3	30.1	1.2	2.2	*6.5*	*7.7*	*
April	34.5	32.6	31.1	1.5	1.9	*5.4*	*6.7*	*
May	34.7	32.8	31.3	1.5	1.9	*5.5*	*6.1*	*
June	36.0	33.9	32.2	1.7	2.1	*5.9*	*6.3*	*
July	35.8	33.8	32.0	1.8	2.0	*5.6*	*6.0*	.8
August	36.4	34.2	32.2	2.0	2.2	*6.1*	*5.7*	*
September	35.6	33.4	31.9	1.5	2.2	*6.2*	*5.5*	*
October	36.0	33.8	32.5	1.3	2.2	*6.1*	*5.4*	.4
November	35.4	33.4	32.3	1.1	2.0	*5.7*	*6.0*	*
December	35.0	32.8	31.8	1.0	2.2	*6.2*	*6.1*	*
1977 Avg.	34.8	32.7	31.3	1.4	2.1	*6.0*	*6.4*	.1
1978								
January	35.3	32.6	31.7	.9	2.7	*7.8*	*8.1*	*
February	36.2	32.8	31.8	1.0	3.4	*9.3*	*8.8*	*
March	35.3	32.4	31.2	1.2	2.9	*8.0*	*8.3*	*
April	35.0	32.9	31.5	1.4	2.1	*6.1*	*6.5*	*
May	35.1	33.0	31.6	1.4	2.1	*6.0*	*5.7*	*
June	36.4	33.5	31.9	1.6	2.9	*7.9*	*6.6*	*
July	35.1	32.7	31.0	1.7	2.4	*6.9*	*5.9*	*
August	34.2	32.0	30.1	1.9	2.2	*6.5*	*5.2*	*
September	33.5	31.4	30.0	*1.4*	*2.1*	*6.3*	*4.7*	*
October	*32.8*	*30.8*	*29.6*	*1.2*	*2.0*	*6.1*	*4.6*	*
November								
December								
Avg.								

1/ *Computed from whole (unrounded) numbers.* *Series began January 1970.*

2/ *Non-additive - included in total employment.* *Revised to 1977 Benchmarks.*

* *Under 50.* *Current month in italics is a forecast; previous month preliminary.*

Table III

BILLINGS SMSA (YELLOWSTONE COUNTY)

Civilian Labor Force

NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

(in Thousands)

Date	Civilian Labor Force	EMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT			Labor Management Dispute[2]
		Total	Non-Ag	Agri.	Total	Percent[1] County	Percent[1] State	
1976								
January	44.6	41.8	40.8	1.0	2.8	*6.2*	*7.9*	*
February	44.7	42.3	41.2	1.1	2.4	*5.4*	*7.4*	*
March	45.3	42.8	41.5	1.3	2.5	*5.6*	*7.2*	*
April	47.1	45.0	43.4	1.6	2.1	*4.5*	*5.9*	*
May	46.6	44.9	43.2	1.7	1.7	*3.7*	*5.0*	*
June	48.6	46.0	44.1	1.9	2.6	*5.4*	*6.2*	*
July	49.4	47.0	44.9	2.1	2.4	*4.8*	*5.5*	*
August	49.0	46.8	44.6	2.2	2.2	*4.4*	*5.3*	*
September	49.6	47.7	46.0	1.7	1.9	*3.9*	*4.9*	*
October	48.9	47.0	45.5	1.5	1.9	*3.9*	*5.1*	*
November	49.0	46.9	45.6	1.3	2.1	*4.3*	*5.9*	*
December	49.4	46.9	45.8	1.1	2.5	*5.0*	*6.5*	*
1976 Avg.	47.7	45.4	43.9	1.5	2.3	*4.8*	*6.1*	*
1977								
January	48.9	46.3	45.3	1.0	2.6	*5.4*	*7.9*	*
February	50.6	47.8	46.7	1.1	2.8	*5.5*	*7.9*	*
March	51.2	48.5	47.1	1.4	2.7	*5.2*	*7.7*	*
April	52.1	49.8	48.1	1.7	2.3	*4.4*	*6.7*	*
May	52.0	49.7	47.9	1.8	2.3	*4.5*	*6.1*	*
June	52.7	50.4	48.4	2.0	2.3	*4.4*	*6.3*	*
July	53.1	50.9	48.8	2.1	2.2	*4.1*	*6.0*	.1
August	54.3	51.9	49.6	2.3	2.4	*4.4*	*5.7*	.1
September	53.9	51.5	49.7	1.8	2.4	*4.4*	*5.5*	.1
October	53.6	51.3	49.8	1.5	2.3	*4.3*	*5.4*	.1
November	53.8	51.5	50.2	1.3	2.3	*4.2*	*6.0*	.1
December	52.9	50.6	49.5	1.1	2.3	*4.3*	*6.1*	.1
1977 Avg.	52.4	50.0	48.4	1.6	2.4	*4.6*	*6.4*	*
1978								
January	51.9	48.8	47.8	1.0	3.1	*6.0*	*8.1*	.1
February	53.8	50.2	49.1	1.1	3.6	*6.7*	*8.8*	.1
March	52.6	49.1	47.8	1.3	3.5	*6.7*	*8.3*	*
April	52.7	50.3	48.7	1.6	2.4	*4.6*	*6.5*	*
May	52.6	50.3	48.6	1.7	2.3	*4.3*	*5.7*	*
June	52.6	49.8	47.9	1.9	2.8	*5.2*	*6.6*	*
July	52.2	49.8	47.8	2.0	2.4	*4.5*	*5.9*	*
August	51.0	48.8	46.6	*2.2*	2.2	*4.2*	*5.2*	*
September	50.5	48.6	46.9	1.7	1.9	*3.8*	*4.7*	*
October	*50.3*	*48.5*	*47.1*	*1.4*	*1.8*	*3.6*	*4.6*	*
November								
December								
Avg.								

1/ *Computed from whole (unrounded) numbers.* *Series began January 1970.*

2/ *Non-additive - included in total employment.* *Revised to 1977 Benchmarks.*

* *Under 50.* *Current month in italics is a forecast; previous month preliminary.*

RESIDENCE DATA
(ESTABLISHMENT DATA in italics)

Table IV

MONTANA

Statewide Employment by Industry

September 1978

in Thousands

INDUSTRY	Sept 1978	August 1978	Sept 1977	Net Changes to Current Month from: August 1978	Net Changes to Current Month from: Sept 1977
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE - PERSONS[1/]	365.4	377.4	355.7	-12.0	9.7
EMPLOYED PERSONS	348.3	357.7	336.3	-9.4	12.0
Persons Employed in Agriculture	36.7	47.0	38.8	-10.3	-2.1
UNEMPLOYED PERSONS	17.1	19.7	19.4	-2.6	-2.3
Percent of Labor Force, Unadjusted[2/]	*4.7*	*5.2*	*5.5*	*-.5*	*-.8*
Percent of Labor Force, Seasonally Adjusted[2/]	*5.7*	*6.1*	*6.6*	*-.4*	*-.9*
NON-FARM WAGE AND SALARY JOBS (Establishment Data)	*276.4*	*274.5*	*275.5*	*+1.9*	*+.9*
MANUFACTURING	*25.1*	*25.1*	*24.7*	*0*	*+.4*
Durable Goods	*16.4*	*16.5*	*16.0*	*-.1*	*+.4*
24 Lumber and Wood Products	*9.7*	*9.7*	*9.4*	*0*	*+.3*
33 Primary Metal Industries	*3.4*	*3.5*	*3.4*	*-.1*	*0*
Other Durable Goods	*3.3*	*3.3*	*3.2*	*0*	*+.1*
Nondurable Goods	*8.7*	*8.6*	*8.7*	*-.1*	*0*
20 Food and Kindred Products	*3.8*	*3.8*	*3.9*	*0*	*-.1*
27 Printing and Publishing	*2.1*	*2.1*	*2.1*	*0*	*0*
29 Petroleum and Coal Products	*1.2*	*1.2*	*1.2*	*0*	*0*
Other Nondurable Goods	*1.6*	*1.5*	*1.5*	*-.1*	*+.1*
MINING	*7.2*	*7.3*	*6.1*	*-.1*	*+1.1*
10 Metal Mining	*2.4*	*2.4*	*1.9*	*0*	*+.5*
12 & 14 Bitum. Coal, Quarrying, Non-Metal Mining	*1.9*	*1.9*	*1.5*	*0*	*+.4*
13 Oil and Gas Extraction	*2.9*	*3.0*	*2.7*	*-.1*	*+.2*
CONTRACT CONSTRUCTION	*17.5*	*17.7*	*18.6*	*-.2*	*-1.1*
15 General Building Contractors	*6.0*	*6.1*	*6.7*	*-.1*	*-.7*
16 Heavy Construction Contractors	*5.6*	*5.7*	*5.8*	*-.1*	*-.2*
17 Special Trade Contractors	*5.9*	*5.9*	*6.1*	*0*	*-.2*
TRANSPORTATION AND PUBLIC UTILITIES	*22.2*	*22.2*	*20.6*	*0*	*+1.6*
40 Railroad Transportation	*7.1*	*7.1*	*6.4*	*0*	*+.7*
41-47 Transportation, except Railroad	*6.3*	*6.3*	*6.2*	*0*	*+.1*
48 & 49 Commun., Electric, Gas, Sanitary Services	*8.8*	*8.8*	*8.0*	*0*	*+.8*
WHOLESALE AND RETAIL TRADE	*72.7*	*72.9*	*69.4*	*-.2*	*+3.3*
Wholesale Trade	*18.3*	*18.3*	*16.6*	*0*	*+1.7*
Retail Trade	*54.4*	*54.6*	*52.8*	*-.2*	*+1.6*
53 & 56 General Merchandise, Apparel, Accessories	*9.1*	*9.1*	*8.3*	*0*	*+.8*
54 Food Stores	*7.7*	*7.9*	*7.2*	*-.2*	*+.5*
55 Automotive Dealers, Service Stations	*8.1*	*8.1*	*7.7*	*0*	*+.4*
58 Eating and Drinking Places	*20.4*	*20.4*	*20.4*	*0*	*0*
52, 57, 59 Bldg. Mat., Farm Equip., Furn., Misc.	*9.1*	*9.1*	*9.2*	*0*	*-.1*
FINANCE, INSURANCE AND REAL ESTATE	*12.1*	*12.2*	*11.9*	*-.1*	*+.2*
SERVICES	*48.0*	*48.5*	*51.3*	*-.5*	*-3.3*
70 Hotels and other Lodging Places	*6.7*	*7.1*	*7.4*	*-.4*	*-.7*
72 Personal Services	*2.8*	*2.8*	*2.6*	*0*	*+.2*
80 Medical and other Health Services	*15.6*	*15.6*	*16.1*	*0*	*-.5*
Other Services	*22.9*	*23.0*	*25.2*	*-.1*	*-2.3*
GOVERNMENT	*71.6*	*68.6*	*72.9*	*+3.0*	*-1.3*
91 Federal Government	*14.3*	*14.7*	*14.9*	*-.4*	*-.6*
92 State Colleges and Universities	*8.2*	*8.2*	*8.9*	*0*	*-.7*
92 Other State Government	*11.3*	*11.3*	*11.5*	*0*	*-.2*
93 Local Education	*22.2*	*18.7*	*23.7*	*+3.5*	*-1.5*
93 Other Local Government	*15.6*	*15.7*	*13.9*	*-.1*	*+1.7*

1/ Estimates based on National Household Sample, Census and Other Relationships; includes self-employed, unpaid family, and domestic workers. Current month preliminary. Revised to 1977 Benchmarks.

2/ Computed from whole (unrounded) numbers.

Establishment Series began January 1964; Residence Series began January 1970.

RESIDENCE DATA
(ESTABLISHMENT DATA in italics)

Table V

GREAT FALLS SMSA (CASCADE COUNTY)

Employment by Industry

September 1978

in Thousands

INDUSTRY	Sept 1978	August 1978	Sept 1977	Net Changes to Current Month from: August 1978	Net Changes to Current Month from: Sept 1977
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE - PERSONS[1/]	33.5	34.2	35.6	-.7	-2.1
EMPLOYED PERSONS	31.4	32.0	33.4	-.6	-2.0
Persons Employed in Agriculture	1.4	1.9	1.5	-.5	-.1
UNEMPLOYED PERSONS	2.1	2.2	2.2	-.1	-.1
Percent of Labor Force, Unadjusted[2/]	*6.3*	*6.5*	*6.2*	*-.2*	*.1*
Percent of Labor Force, Seasonally Adjusted[2/]	*7.1*	*6.9*	*7.0*	*.2*	*.1*
NON-FARM WAGE AND SALARY JOBS (Establishment Data)	*29.6*	*29.9*	*30.6*	*-.3*	*-1.0*
Manufacturing	*1.7*	*1.7*	*1.8*	*0*	*-.1*
Contract Construction	*2.0*	*2.0*	*2.2*	*0*	*-.2*
Transportation and Public Utilities	*1.9*	*1.9*	*1.8*	*0*	*+.1*
Trade	*10.2*	*10.2*	*10.2*	*0*	*0*
Wholesale Trade	*3.0*	*3.0*	*2.8*	*0*	*+.2*
Retail Trade	*7.2*	*7.2*	*7.4*	*0*	*-.2*
Finance, Insurance and Real Estate	*1.9*	*1.9*	*1.9*	*0*	*0*
Services and Mining	*6.3*	*6.3*	*6.5*	*0*	*-.2*
Government	*5.6*	*5.9*	*6.2*	*-.3*	*-.6*
Federal Government	*2.2*	*2.2*	*2.2*	*0*	*0*
State and Local Government	*3.4*	*3.7*	*4.0*	*-.3*	*-.6*

1/ Estimates based on National Household Sample, Census and Other Relationships; includes self-employed, unpaid family, and domestic workers.

2/ Computed from whole (unrounded) numbers.

Current month preliminary. *Revised to 1977 Benchmarks.*

Table VI

BILLINGS SMSA (YELLOWSTONE COUNTY)

Employment by Industry

September 1978

in Thousands

INDUSTRY	Sept 1978	August 1978	Sept 1977	Net Changes to Current Month from: August 1978	Sept 1977
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE - PERSONS[1/]	50.5	51.0	53.9	-.5	-3.4
EMPLOYED PERSONS	48.6	48.8	51.5	-.2	-2.9
Persons Employed in Agriculture	1.7	2.2	1.8	-.5	-.1
UNEMPLOYED PERSONS	1.9	2.2	2.4	-.3	-.5
Percent of Labor Force, Unadjusted[2/]	*3.8*	*4.2*	*4.4*	*-.4*	*-.6*
Percent of Labor Force, Seasonally Adjusted[2/]	*4.4*	*4.6*	*4.9*	*-.2*	*-.5*
NON-FARM WAGE AND SALARY JOBS (Establishment Data)	*44.0*	*44.0*	*44.9*	*0*	*-.9*
Manufacturing	*3.6*	*3.6*	*3.5*	*0*	*+.1*
Contract Construction	*3.3*	*3.4*	*3.3*	*-.1*	*0*
Transportation and Public Utilities	*3.8*	*3.8*	*3.8*	*0*	*0*
Trade	*14.8*	*14.9*	*15.0*	*-.1*	*-.2*
Wholesale Trade	*5.6*	*5.7*	*5.5*	*-.1*	*+.1*
Retail Trade	*9.2*	*9.2*	*9.5*	*0*	*-.3*
Finance, Insurance and Real Estate	*2.2*	*2.2*	*2.1*	*0*	*+.1*
Services and Mining	*8.7*	*8.7*	*8.4*	*0*	*+.3*
Government	*7.6*	*7.4*	*8.8*	*+.2*	*-1.2*
Federal Government	*1.5*	*1.5*	*2.0*	*0*	*-.5*
State and Local Government	*6.1*	*5.9*	*6.8*	*+.2*	*-.7*

1/ Estimates based on National Household Sample, Census and Other Relationships; includes self-employed, unpaid family, and domestic workers.

2/ Computed from whole (unrounded) numbers.

Current month preliminary. *Revised to 1977 Benchmarks.*

Table VII

MONTANA LABOR MARKET AREAS[1/]

CURRENT POPULATION SURVEY DATA

Civilian Labor Force

in Thousands

	CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE			EMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT RATE		
	July 1978	Aug. 1978	Sept. 1977	July 1978	Aug. 1978	Sept. 1977	July 1978	Aug. 1978	Sept. 1977	July 1978	Aug. 1978	Sept. 1977
STATEWIDE	381.2	377.4	365.4	358.8	357.7	348.3	22.4	19.7	17.1	*5.9*	*5.2*	*4.7*
GREAT FALLS SMSA	35.1	34.2	33.5	32.7	32.0	31.4	2.4	2.2	2.1	*6.9*	*6.5*	*6.3*
BILLINGS SMSA	52.2	51.0	50.5	49.8	48.8	48.6	2.4	2.2	1.9	*4.5*	*4.2*	*3.8*
BALANCE OF STATE[2/]	293.9	292.2	281.4	276.3	276.9	268.3	17.6	15.3	13.1	*6.0*	*5.3*	*4.6*
ANACONDA-BUTTE	36.6	37.7	36.3	33.5	34.9	34.1	3.1	2.8	2.2	*8.6*	*7.5*	*6.2*
BOZEMAN	29.9	29.6	28.9	28.8	28.6	28.1	1.1	1.0	.8	*3.7*	*3.3*	*3.0*
GLASGOW	17.8	17.7	16.5	16.9	16.9	15.9	.9	.8	.6	*5.2*	*4.3*	*3.7*
GLENDIVE	15.5	15.4	14.5	15.0	15.0	14.2	.5	.4	.3	*3.4*	*2.8*	*2.3*
HARDIN-RED LODGE	13.1	13.7	12.3	12.5	13.1	11.9	.6	.6	.4	*4.8*	*4.2*	*3.3*
HAVRE	13.6	13.3	12.5	12.9	12.7	12.1	.7	.6	.4	*5.2*	*4.7*	*3.6*
HELENA	28.4	27.8	27.1	26.8	26.4	25.9	1.6	1.4	1.2	*5.5*	*4.9*	*4.4*
KALISPELL	38.4	37.9	37.1	35.4	35.3	34.7	3.0	2.6	2.4	*7.9*	*6.8*	*6.5*
LEWISTOWN	11.4	11.3	10.4	10.8	10.9	10.1	.6	.4	.3	*5.1*	*3.9*	*3.3*
MILES CITY	15.7	15.5	14.8	15.0	14.9	14.2	.7	.6	.6	*4.5*	*4.0*	*3.8*
MISSOULA	53.5	52.3	52.2	49.9	49.2	49.5	3.6	3.1	2.7	*6.7*	*5.8*	*5.2*
SHELBY-CUT BANK	20.1	20.1	18.5	19.0	19.0	17.6	1.1	1.1	.9	*5.6*	*5.5*	*4.8*

1/ A list of counties included in each Labor Market Area appears on "New Business Firms" page. Map inside back cover.

2/ Statewide, excluding Great Falls and Billings Standard Metropolitan Statistical Areas.

Totals may not add due to rounding.

TABLE VIII

MONTANA LABOR MARKET AREAS[1/]

Civilian Labor Force

in Thousands

CURRENT POPULATION SURVEY DATA

	CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE			EMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT RATE		
	Sept. 1978	Sept. 1977	Percent Change 1977-1978	Sept. 1978	Sept. 1977	Percent Change 1977-1978	Sept. 1978	Sept. 1977	Net Change 1977-1977	Sept. 1978	Sept. 1977	Net Chang 1977 1978
STATEWIDE	365.4	355.7	*2.7*	348.3	336.3	*3.6*	17.1	19.4	-2.3	*4.7*	*5.5*	*-.8*
GREAT FALLS SMSA	33.5	35.6	*-5.9*	31.4	33.4	*-6.0*	2.1	2.2	-.1	*6.3*	*6.2*	*.1*
BILLINGS SMSA	50.5	53.9	*-6.3*	48.6	51.5	*-5.6*	1.9	2.4	-.5	*3.8*	*4.4*	*-.6*
BALANCE OF STATE[2/]	281.4	266.2	*5.7*	268.3	251.4	*6.7*	13.1	14.8	-1.7	*4.6*	*5.6*	*-1.0*
ANACONDA-BUTTE	36.3	34.6	*4.9*	34.1	32.3	*5.6*	2.2	2.3	-.1	*6.2*	*6.7*	*-.5*
BOZEMAN	28.9	24.5	*18.0*	28.1	23.5	*19.6*	.8	1.0	-.2	*3.0*	*3.9*	*-.9*
GLASGOW	16.5	17.7	*-6.8*	15.9	16.8	*-5.4*	.6	.9	-.3	*3.7*	*4.9*	*-1.2*
GLENDIVE	14.5	14.8	*-2.0*	14.2	14.4	*-1.4*	.3	.4	-.1	*2.3*	*2.6*	*-.3*
HARDIN-RED LODGE	12.3	12.4	*-.8*	11.9	11.8	*.8*	.4	.6	-.2	*3.3*	*4.9*	*-1.6*
HAVRE	12.5	13.4	*-6.7*	12.1	12.8	*-5.5*	.4	.6	-.2	*3.6*	*4.3*	*-.7*
HELENA	27.1	25.9	*4.6*	25.9	24.5	*5.7*	1.2	1.4	-.2	*4.4*	*5.4*	*-1.0*
KALISPELL	37.1	32.4	*14.5*	34.7	29.8	*14.1*	2.4	2.6	-.2	*6.5*	*8.0*	*-1.5*
LEWISTOWN	10.4	11.0	*-5.5*	10.1	10.6	*-5.0*	.3	.4	-.1	*3.3*	*3.5*	*-.2*
MILES CITY	14.8	15.1	*-2.0*	14.2	14.5	*-2.1*	.6	.6	0	*3.8*	*3.7*	*.1*
MISSOULA	52.2	46.1	*13.2*	49.5	42.8	*15.7*	2.7	3.3	-.6	*5.2*	*7.1*	*-1.9*
SHELBY-CUT BANK	18.5	18.3	*1.1*	17.6	17.4	*1.1*	.9	.9	0	*4.8*	*5.1*	*-.3*

1/ A list of counties included in each Labor Market Area appears on "New Business Firms" page. Map inside back cover.
2/ Statewide, excluding Great Falls and Billings Standard Metropolitan Statistical Areas.
Totals may not add due to rounding.

TABLE IX A

MONTANA MONTHLY LABOR FORCE BY COUNTY
CURRENT POPULATION SURVEY DATA
SEPTEMBER 1978

COUNTY	CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE	EMPLOYMENT	UNEMPLOYMENT	PERCENT RATE
STATEWIDE	365353	348298	17055	4.7
CASCADE	33547	31432	2115	6.3
YELLOWSTONE	50477	48554	1923	3.8
BEAVERHEAD	4473	4353	120	2.7
BIG HORN	5332	5084	248	4.7
BLAINE	2873	2681	192	6.7
BROADWATER	1544	1491	53	3.4
CARBON	3437	3347	90	2.6
CARTER	1062	999	63	5.9
CHOUTEAU	3005	2922	83	2.8
CUSTER	5944	5790	154	2.6
DANIELS	1470	1445	25	1.7
DAWSON	5532	5351	181	3.3
DEER LODGE	6214	5749	465	7.5
FALLON	2064	2011	53	2.6
FERGUS	5244	5096	148	2.8
FLATHEAD	21529	20175	1354	6.3
GALLATIN	21607	21001	606	2.8
GARFIELD	851	834	17	2.0
GLACIER	6455	5889	566	8.8
GOLDEN VALLEY	447	437	10	2.2
GRANITE	1449	1372	77	5.3
HILL	8552	8319	233	2.7
JEFFERSON	2354	2178	176	7.5
JUDITH BASIN	1310	1200	110	8.4
LAKE	8279	7837	442	5.3
LEWIS AND CLARK	23218	22259	959	4.1
LIBERTY	1099	1069	30	2.7
LINCOLN	7319	6699	620	8.5
MC CONE	1392	1368	24	1.7
MADISON	2724	2660	64	2.3
MEAGHER	1076	1050	26	2.4
MINERAL	1664	1574	90	5.4
MISSOULA	38695	36753	1942	5.0
MUSSELSHELL	1714	1664	50	2.9
PARK	6245	6021	224	3.6
PETROLEUM	315	312	3	1.0
PHILLIPS	2793	2661	132	4.7
PONDERA	3479	3381	98	2.8
POWDER RIVER	1122	1095	27	2.4
POWELL	3719	3565	154	4.1
PRAIRIE	1002	994	8	.8
RAVALLI	7855	7377	478	6.1
RICHLAND	5088	4996	92	1.8
ROOSEVELT	4905	4718	187	3.8
ROSEBUD	4108	3861	247	6.0
SANDERS	3977	3766	211	5.3
SHERIDAN	2569	2528	41	1.6
SILVER BOW	17734	16373	1361	7.7
STILLWATER	1867	1818	49	2.6
SWEET GRASS	1699	1682	17	1.0
TETON	2826	2745	81	2.9
TOOLE	2743	2681	62	2.3
TREASURE	475	462	13	2.7
VALLEY	4811	4584	227	4.7
WHEATLAND	1359	1339	20	1.5
WIBAUX	710	696	14	2.0

TABLE LX B

MONTANA MONTHLY LABOR FORCE BY COUNTY
CURRENT POPULATION SURVEY DATA
AUGUST 1978

COUNTY	CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE	EMPLOYMENT	UNEMPLOYMENT	PERCENT RATE
STATEWIDE	377461	357745	19716	5.2
CASCADE	34212	32001	2211	6.5
YELLOWSTONE	50977	48826	2151	4.2
BEAVERHEAD	4764	4620	144	3.0
BIG HORN	5620	5315	305	5.4
BLAINE	3120	2865	255	8.2
BROADWATER	1637	1569	68	4.2
CARBON	4133	3971	162	3.9
CARTER	1209	1120	89	7.4
CHOUTEAU	3369	3245	124	3.7
CUSTER	6052	5884	168	2.8
DANIELS	1600	1556	44	2.8
DAWSON	5720	5526	194	3.4
DEER LODGE	6444	5908	536	8.3
FALLON	2267	2210	57	2.5
FERGUS	5652	5463	189	3.3
FLATHEAD	21912	20460	1452	6.6
GALLATIN	21930	21217	713	3.3
GARFIELD	1024	988	36	3.5
GLACIER	6899	6192	707	10.2
GOLDEN VALLEY	512	499	13	2.5
GRANITE	1437	1315	122	8.5
HILL	8919	8602	317	3.6
JEFFERSON	2367	2192	175	7.4
JUDITH BASIN	1524	1377	147	9.6
LAKE	8772	8313	459	5.2
LEWIS AND CLARK	23805	22675	1130	4.7
LIBERTY	1245	1192	53	4.3
LINCOLN	7158	6487	671	9.4
MC CONE	1527	1490	37	2.4
MADISON	3148	3070	78	2.5
MEAGHER	1195	1168	27	2.3
MINERAL	1799	1669	130	7.2
MISSOULA	37967	35884	2083	5.5
MUSSELSHELL	1789	1737	52	2.9
PARK	6442	6220	222	3.4
PETROLEUM	366	361	5	1.4
PHILLIPS	3010	2910	100	3.3
PONDERA	3782	3668	114	3.0
POWDER RIVER	1294	1257	37	2.9
POWELL	3803	3595	208	5.5
PRAIRIE	1032	1018	14	1.4
RAVALLI	8279	7660	619	7.5
RICHLAND	5328	5213	115	2.2
ROOSEVELT	5111	4867	244	4.8
ROSEBUD	4212	3950	262	6.2
SANDERS	4233	4023	210	5.0
SHERIDAN	2758	2711	47	1.7
SILVER BOW	18085	16343	1742	9.6
STILLWATER	2052	1979	73	3.6
SWEET GRASS	1885	1856	29	1.5
TETON	3088	3009	79	2.6
TOOLE	2985	2894	91	3.0
TREASURE	532	516	16	3.0
VALLEY	5188	4869	319	6.1
WHEATLAND	1460	1424	36	2.5
WIBAUX	831	796	35	4.2

TABLE X

ESTABLISHMENT DATA

MONTANA

FEMALE EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

September 1978

(In Thousands)

INDUSTRY	FEMALE EMPLOYMENT					TOTAL EMPLOYMENT COMPARISON			
				Net Change to Current Month From:					
	Sept. 1978 1/	August 1978	Sept. 1977	August 1978	Sept. 1977	Total	Percent Women	Total	Percent Women
						September 1978		August 1978	
Nonagricultural Wage & Salary Workers .	117.1	117.5	114.2	+.2	-4.7	276.4	42.3	274.5	42.8
Manufacturing	2.8	2.9	3.0	-.1	-.2	25.1	11.2	25.1	11.6
Mining	.4	.4	.3	0	+.1	7.2	5.6	7.3	5.5
Contract Construction	1.2	1.3	1.3	-.1	-.1	17.5	6.9	17.5	7.4
Transportation & Public Utilities .	4.0	4.0	3.7	0	+.3	22.2	18.0	22.2	18.0
Wholesale & Retail Trade	32.6	32.7	30.6	-.1	+2.0	72.7	44.8	72.9	44.9
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate ..	8.2	8.3	7.6	-.1	+.6	12.1	67.8	12.2	68.0
Services	33.1	33.0	33.1	+.1	0	48.0	69.0	48.5	68.0
Government 2/	34.8	34.9	34.6	-.1	+.2	71.6	48.6	68.6	50.8

1/ *Current month preliminary.* *Revised to 1977 Benchmark.* *Establishment Series began January 1974.*

2/ *Includes all civilian employees of Federal, State, and Local Governments regardless of the activity in which the employee is engaged.*

Prepared by the Montana Employment Security Division in Cooperation with the U. S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

TABLE XI

MONTANA FEMALE EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

(In Thousands)

1977

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Ann. Avg.
Nonagricultural Wage & Salary .	103.2	103.8	105.8	107.0	105.9	109.8	109.2	111.7	114.2	113.9	114.6	114.8	109.5
Manufacturing	3.2	3.1	3.0	3.1	2.9	3.0	3.0	3.1	3.0	3.2	2.9	2.8	3.0
Mining	.3	.3	.3	.3	.3	.3	.3	.3	.3	.3	.3	.3	.3
Contract Construction.....	.8	.8	.7	.8	1.0	1.0	1.1	1.3	1.3	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.0
Transport. & Public Utilities.	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.4	3.6	3.8	3.9	3.8	3.7	3.8	3.8	3.8	3.7
Wholesale & Retail Trade.....	26.8	26.7	28.0	28.8	29.0	30.6	30.2	30.2	30.6	31.1	31.4	31.0	29.5
Finance, Ins., & Real Estate..	6.8	6.9	6.9	6.9	7.0	7.1	7.2	7.5	7.6	7.6	7.6	7.6	7.2
Services	30.5	30.7	31.1	31.4	31.3	32.4	32.6	32.6	33.1	32.4	33.1	33.2	32.1
Government1/	31.3	31.8	32.3	32.3	30.8	31.6	30.9	32.9	34.6	34.4	34.4	35.0	32.7

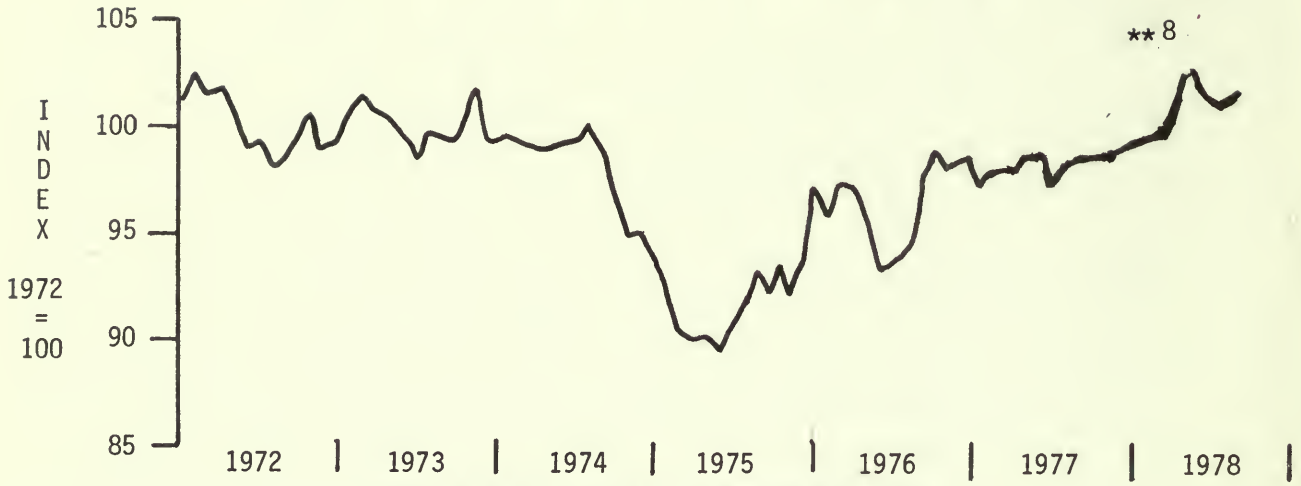
1978

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sep.
Nonagricultural Wage & Salary .	115.2	115.4	116.2	117.4	117.5	118.3	117.6	117.5	117.1
Manufacturing	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.8	2.8	2.9	2.8
Mining.....	.3	.3	.3	.3	.4	.4	.4	.4	.4
Contract Construction	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.3	1.2
Transport. & Public Utilities.	3.8	3.8	3.8	3.8	3.9	3.9	4.0	4.0	4.0
Wholesale & Retail Trade.....	30.7	30.5	30.8	31.4	31.6	31.0	32.1	32.7	32.6
Finance, Ins., & Real Estate..	7.6	7.8	7.9	7.9	8.0	8.1	8.1	8.3	8.2
Services.....	33.2	33.3	33.4	33.5	33.4	33.9	33.9	33.0	33.1
Government1/.....	35.8	35.9	36.2	36.6	36.3	36.0	35.1	34.9	34.8

1/ *Includes all civilian employees of Federal, State, and Local Governments regardless of the activity in which the employee is engaged. Establishment Series began January, 1974. Revised to 1977 Benchmark. Prepared by Montana Employment Security Division in cooperation with U.S. Dept. of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.*

ECONOMIC INDICATORS

COMPOSITE INDEX OF SIX ECONOMIC INDICATORS*



Composite Index of
SIX ECONOMIC INDICATORS
1972 = 100

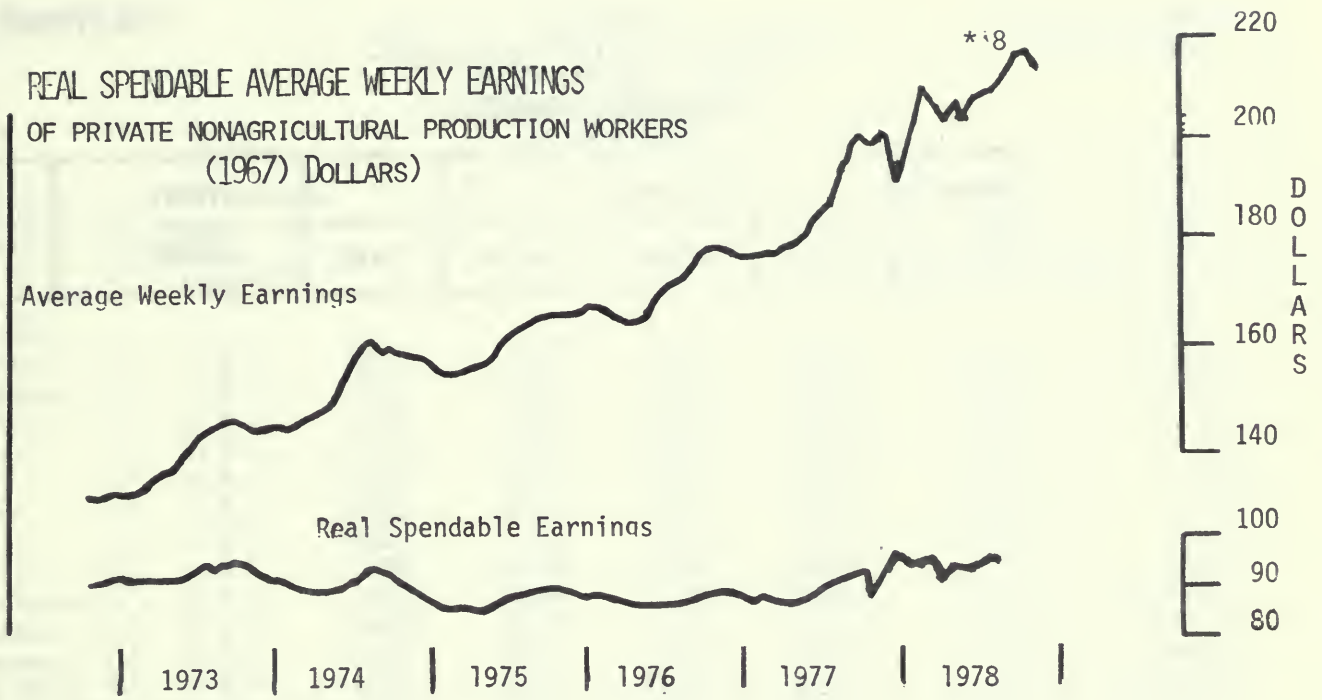
1977	
January	98.2
February	99.2
March	99.0
April	99.1
May	97.1
June	97.5
July	95.8
August	97.1
September	98.1
October	98.1
November	98.0
December	98.5
1978	
January	100.1
February	100.2
March	103.1
April	103.8
May	102.4
June	101.7
July	101.3
August	101.8
September	
October	
November	
December	

MONTANA'S COMPOSITE INDEX

A slight upward movement occurred in the composite index of leading indicators in August to bring the index to 101.8. This reversal of the downward trend for the last few months is related to improvements in four of the six component indicators. Accessions, layoffs, initial claims, and average weekly manufacturing hours all moved positively. Small negative movements in manufacturing employment and building permits kept the index from a larger jump for the month. Trends for the past few months seem to signify a stability in the index, but fortell no extreme gyrations in the Montana economy.

* *Employment, Average Weekly Hours, Total Accessions, and Layoffs in Manufacturing; Building Permits, and Average Weekly Initial Unemployment Insurance Claims.*

** *Indicates last month of plotted data.*



	AUG. 1978	JULY 1978	AUG. 1977
Gross Average Weekly Earnings	$214.68	$217.49	$200.28
Taxes Withheld	34.38	35.19	29.88
Spendable Earnings	180.30	182.30	170.40
Adjustment for Price Changes Since 1967	89.11	89.63	77.44
Real Spendable Earnings in 1967 Dollars	91.19	92.67	92.96

	Average Weekly Earnings	Real Spendable Earnings
1977		
July	190.97	89.63
Aug.	200.28	92.96
Sep.	197.89	91.67
Oct.	202.65	93.29
Nov.	190.85	88.23
Dec.	210.37	95.44
1978		
Jan.	205.19	92.67
Feb.	209.10	93.63
Mar.	203.28	90.71
Apr.	207.77	91.58
May	208.58	91.04
June	216.58	93.03
July	217.49	92.67
Aug.	214.68	91.19
Sep.		
Oct.		
Nov.		
Dec.		

REAL SPENDABLE EARNINGS

Real spendable earnings dropped considerably in August, but not as much as the fall in gross earnings. The 1978 pattern of erratic behavior continued in this statistic. Inflation as reflected in the C.P.I. might be slowing but the decrease in gross wages counteracted any positive gains.

Looking at the statistic on an annual basis, the real spendable wage is now below the figure for last August despite significant gains in gross wages during the same period. The persistent national problem of high inflation is also obviously a problem in Montana.

** Indicates last month of plotted data.* *p: Preliminary*

1/ Average weekly earnings of total private nonagricultural production workers.

2/ Real spendable average weekly earnings of private nonagricultural production workers.

MONTANA CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE

SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

(in Thousands)

Date	Civilian Labor Force	EMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT			Labor Management Dispute[2]
		Total	Non-Ag	Agri.	Total	Percent[1] Montana	Percent[1] U. S.	
1976								
January	327.7	307.2	275.1	32.1	20.5	6.3	7.8	*
February	328.3	308.8	275.6	33.2	19.5	5.9	7.6	*
March	328.3	308.3	275.2	33.1	20.0	6.1	7.5	*
April	330.0	311.1	276.8	34.3	18.9	5.7	7.5	*
May	329.4	310.3	277.1	33.2	19.1	5.8	7.3	*
June	326.4	306.8	273.4	33.4	19.6	6.0	7.5	.1
July	334.2	313.9	279.4	34.5	20.3	6.1	7.8	.1
August	333.9	313.2	279.3	33.9	20.7	6.2	7.9	.1
September	335.6	315.5	282.2	33.3	20.1	6.0	7.8	.1
October	335.0	315.1	281.9	33.2	19.9	5.9	7.9	.1
November	337.2	317.0	283.8	33.2	20.2	6.0	8.1	.1
December	337.0	315.9	282.3	33.6	21.1	6.3	7.8	.1
1976 Avg.	332.0	312.0	278.6	33.4	20.0	6.1	7.7	.1
1977								
January	337.1	315.9	282.2	33.7	21.2	6.3	7.4	.1
February	339.9	317.9	283.0	34.9	22.0	6.5	7.6	.1
March	340.0	317.5	282.4	35.1	22.5	6.6	7.4	.1
April	340.6	318.3	281.9	36.4	22.3	6.6	7.1	.1
May	340.5	317.4	282.3	35.1	23.1	6.8	7.1	.1
June	337.2	316.4	281.0	35.4	20.8	6.2	7.1	.2
July	344.4	321.7	285.5	36.2	22.7	6.6	6.9	3.3
August	347.9	324.8	289.4	35.4	23.1	6.6	7.0	.2
September	346.6	323.8	289.5	34.3	22.8	6.6	6.8	.1
October	347.2	325.3	291.6	33.7	21.9	6.3	6.8	.5
November	347.6	326.4	293.2	33.2	21.2	6.1	6.7	.1
December	346.5	326.0	292.5	33.5	20.5	5.9	6.4	.2
1977 Avg.	343.0	321.0	286.3	34.7	22.0	6.4	7.0	.4
1978								
January	352.6	329.4	295.8	33.6	23.2	6.6	6.3	.2
February	361.3	334.6	299.9	34.7	26.7	7.4	6.1	.2
March	362.4	336.2	301.6	34.6	26.2	7.2	6.2	*
April	362.3	339.4	305.1	34.3	22.9	6.3	6.0	*
May	361.9	338.9	305.9	33.0	23.0	6.4	6.1	*
June	360.3	337.1	304.0	33.1	23.2	6.4	5.7	.4
July	361.3	338.2	304.6	33.6	23.1	6.4	6.2	.2
August	353.9	332.3	299.7	32.6	21.6	6.1	5.9	.1
September	356.3	335.8	303.7	32.1	20.5	5.7	6.0	.1
October								
November								
December								
Avg.								

1/ Computed from whole (unrounded) numbers.

2/ Non-additive - included in total employment.

* *Under 50.*

Series began January 1970.
Revised to 1977 Benchmarks.
Current month preliminary

NOTE: Seasonally adjusted data are provided for statistical analysis only and should not be confused with actual numbers.

RESIDENCE DATA

Table XIII

GREAT FALLS SMSA (CASCADE COUNTY)

Civilian Labor Force
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED
(in Thousands)

CURRENT POPULATION SURVEY DATA

Date	Civilian Labor Force	EMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT			Labor Management Dispute 2/
		Total	Non-Ag	Agri.	Total	Percent 1/ County	Percent 1/ State	
1976								
January	30.7	28.6	27.3	1.3	2.1	6.9	6.3	*
February	31.2	29.2	27.9	1.3	2.0	6.5	5.9	*
March	31.3	29.2	27.9	1.3	2.1	6.7	6.1	*
April	30.8	28.8	27.4	1.4	2.0	6.5	5.7	*
May	30.9	29.0	27.7	1.3	1.9	6.2	5.8	*
June	31.0	28.9	27.6	1.3	2.1	6.8	6.0	*
July	31.6	29.5	28.1	1.4	2.1	6.7	6.1	*
August	31.7	29.6	28.2	1.4	2.1	6.5	6.2	*
September	31.6	29.7	28.4	1.3	1.9	6.1	6.0	*
October	31.7	29.8	28.5	1.3	1.9	6.1	5.9	*
November	32.2	30.2	28.9	1.3	2.0	6.2	6.0	*
December	30.8	28.9	27.6	1.3	1.9	6.3	6.3	*
1976 Avg.	31.3	29.3	28.0	1.3	2.0	6.5	6.1	*
1977								
January	33.0	31.1	29.7	1.4	1.9	5.8	6.3	*
February	34.4	32.5	31.1	1.4	1.9	5.5	6.5	*
March	34.0	32.0	30.6	1.4	2.0	5.9	6.6	*
April	34.4	32.5	31.0	1.5	1.9	5.7	6.6	*
May	34.5	32.4	31.0	1.4	2.1	6.1	6.8	*
June	34.6	32.8	31.4	1.4	1.8	5.1	6.2	*
July	34.9	32.9	31.5	1.4	2.0	5.6	6.6	.8
August	35.4	33.1	31.7	1.4	2.3	6.5	6.6	*
September	35.4	32.9	31.5	1.4	2.5	7.0	6.6	*
October	35.9	33.6	32.3	1.3	2.3	6.5	6.3	.4
November	35.5	33.4	32.1	1.3	2.1	5.9	6.1	*
December	35.6	33.4	32.1	1.3	2.2	6.2	5.9	*
1977 Avg.	34.8	32.7	31.3	1.4	2.1	6.0	6.4	.1
1978								
January	36.5	33.9	32.5	1.4	2.6	7.0	6.6	*
February	37.8	34.5	33.1	1.4	3.3	8.7	7.4	*
March	35.7	33.1	31.7	1.4	2.6	7.4	7.2	*
April	35.0	32.8	31.4	1.4	2.2	6.3	6.3	*
May	35.0	32.7	31.4	1.3	2.3	6.6	6.4	*
June	34.9	32.4	31.1	1.3	2.5	7.3	6.4	*
July	34.1	31.7	30.4	1.3	2.4	6.9	6.4	*
August	33.1	30.8	29.5	1.3	2.3	6.9	6.1	*
September	33.4	31.0	29.7	1.3	2.4	7.1	5.7	*
October								
November								
December								
Avg.								

1/ Computed from whole (unrounded) numbers.
2/ Non-additive - included in total employment.
* *Under 50.*

Series began January 1970.
Revised to 1977 Benchmarks.
Current month preliminary.

NOTE: Seasonally adjusted data are provided for statistical analysis only and should not be confused with actual numbers.

Table XIV

BILLINGS SMSA (YELLOWSTONE COUNTY)

Civilian Labor Force

SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

(in Thousands)

Date	Civilian Labor Force	EMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT			Labor Management Dispute 2/
		Total	Non-Ag	Agri.	Total	Percent 1/ County	Percent 1/ State	
1976								
January	46.0	43.6	42.2	1.4	2.4	5.2	6.3	*
February	46.4	44.3	42.8	1.5	2.1	4.6	5.9	*
March	46.5	44.3	42.8	1.5	2.2	4.8	6.1	*
April	47.2	45.0	43.4	1.6	2.2	4.7	5.7	*
May	46.8	44.6	43.1	1.5	2.2	4.6	5.8	*
June	47.0	44.7	43.1	1.6	2.3	4.8	6.0	*
July	48.0	45.7	44.1	1.6	2.3	4.8	6.1	*
August	47.9	45.6	44.0	1.6	2.3	4.8	6.2	*
September	49.3	47.1	45.6	1.5	2.2	4.4	6.0	*
October	48.6	46.4	44.9	1.5	2.2	4.6	5.9	*
November	48.9	46.6	45.1	1.5	2.3	4.7	6.0	*
December	49.5	47.0	45.5	1.5	2.5	5.0	6.3	*
1976 Avg.	47.7	45.4	43.9	1.5	2.3	4.8	6.1	*
1977								
January	50.3	48.0	46.5	1.5	2.3	4.5	6.3	*
February	52.4	49.9	48.3	1.6	2.5	4.7	6.5	*
March	52.3	50.0	48.4	1.6	2.3	4.5	6.6	*
April	52.2	49.8	48.1	1.7	2.4	4.5	6.6	*
May	52.2	49.4	47.8	1.6	2.8	5.4	6.8	*
June	51.1	49.2	47.6	1.6	1.9	3.8	6.2	*
July	51.7	49.6	48.0	1.6	2.1	4.0	6.6	.1
August	53.2	50.7	49.0	1.7	2.5	4.8	6.6	.1
September	53.6	51.0	49.4	1.6	2.6	4.9	6.6	.1
October	53.3	50.7	49.2	1.5	2.6	4.9	6.3	.1
November	53.7	51.2	49.7	1.5	2.5	4.6	6.1	.1
December	53.0	50.7	49.2	1.5	2.3	4.3	5.9	.1
1977 Avg.	52.4	50.0	48.4	1.6	2.4	4.6	6.4	*
1978								
January	53.2	50.5	49.0	1.5	2.7	5.1	6.6	.1
February	55.6	52.3	50.7	1.6	3.3	5.9	7.4	.1
March	53.8	50.6	49.0	1.6	3.2	5.9	7.2	*
April	52.8	50.3	48.7	1.6	2.5	4.7	6.3	*
May	52.7	50.0	48.5	1.5	2.7	5.1	6.4	*
June	51.0	48.6	47.1	1.5	2.4	4.7	6.4	*
July	50.8	48.5	47.0	1.5	2.3	4.5	6.4	*
August	49.9	47.8	46.3	1.5	2.3	4.6	6.1	*
September	50.2	48.0	46.5	1.5	2.2	4.4	5.7	*
October								
November								
December								
Avg.								

1/ *Computed from whole (unrounded) numbers*

2/ *Non-additive - included in total employment.*

* *Under 50.*

Series began January 1970.

Revised to 1977 Benchmarks.

Current month preliminary.

NOTE: Seasonally adjusted data are provided for statistical analysis only and should not be confused with actual numbers.

TABLE XV

MONTANA HOURS AND EARNINGS

For Private Nonagricultural Industries

	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	Sept 1978	Aug. 1978	Sept 1977	Sept 1978	Aug. 1978	Sept 1977	Sept 1978	Aug. 1978	Sept 1977
TOTAL PRIVATE	$215.28	$214.68	$197.89	36.0	35.9	35.4	5.98	5.98	5.59
MANUFACTURING	339.07	338.35	289.08	41.3	42.4	42.7	8.21	7.98	6.77
Durable Goods	335.78	334.22	297.79	40.9	42.2	43.6	8.21	7.92	6.83
Primary Metal Industries	327.60	323.02	279.82	36.0	36.5	35.6	9.10	8.85	7.86
Nondurable Goods	347.68	350.83	268.92	42.4	43.1	40.5	8.20	8.14	6.64
Food and Kindred Products	293.19	284.20	248.51	46.1	45.4	42.7	6.36	6.26	5.82
MINING	382.39	379.10	358.90	42.3	42.5	41.3	9.04	8.92	8.69
Metal Mining	379.84	379.84	392.96	35.8	35.8	38.3	10.61	10.61	10.26
CONTRACT CONSTRUCTION	359.00	367.80	416.49	33.9	34.6	38.6	10.59	10.63	10.79
TRANSPORTATION AND PUBLIC UTILITIES	311.53	311.53	311.96	41.1	41.1	42.1	7.58	7.58	7.41
Communications, Electric, Gas, Sanitary Services	301.15	300.71	270.82	43.9	43.9	41.6	6.86	6.85	6.51
WHOLESALE AND RETAIL TRADE	170.00	165.50	150.33	34.0	33.1	34.4	5.00	5.00	4.37
FINANCE, INSURANCE, AND REAL ESTATE	146.43	148.30	134.30	36.7	36.8	37.1	3.99	4.03	3.62
SERVICES	134.73	134.40	118.59	33.6	33.6	29.5	4.01	4.00	4.02

Data for current month are preliminary.
Averages are based on gross earnings, including overtime and premium pay.
Selected Industries series began January 1950; Total Private Sector series began January 1969 (May 1972 issue).
Prepared by U. S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

TABLE XVI

MONTANA LABOR TURNOVER RATES

In Manufacturing and Mining Industries

(per 100 employees)

August 1978

	ACCESSION RATES						SEPARATION RATES								
	Total			New Hires			Total			Quits			Layoffs		
	Aug. 1978	Jul. 1978	Aug. 1977	Aug. 1978	Jul. 1978	Aug. 1977	Aug. 1978	Jul. 1978	Aug. 1977	Aug. 1978	Jul. 1978	Aug. 1977	Aug. 1978	Jul. 1978	Aug. 1977
MANUFACTURING	3.5	3.5	4.4	2.9	2.6	4.0	3.7	2.6	4.7	2.5	1.6	2.7	0.6	0.3	0.5
Durable Goods	3.4	3.7	4.1	2.9	2.5	3.6	3.3	2.5	5.3	2.1	1.6	2.6	0.5	0.3	0.7
Primary Metal Industries	2.2	5.3	2.3	1.8	1.4	1.8	1.7	1.3	6.6	1.1	0.8	1.6	0.1	0.2	3.0
Nondurable Goods	3.8	3.1	5.0	3.1	2.8	4.6	4.4	3.0	3.6	3.2	1.6	2.9	0.7	0.2	0.1
MINING	4.9	6.0	3.2	4.5	5.3	2.3	4.5	3.0	1.5	3.1	1.0	1.1	0.4	1.0	0.1
Metal Mining	1.1	0.9	2.2	*	0.2	0.1	2.3	3.5	0.9	0.4	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.1	0.1

* *Less than .05.*
Prepared by U. S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.
Series began January 1959.

TABLE XVII

NEW BUSINESS FIRMS IN MONTANA

BY INDUSTRY

New business firms in Montana are a reflection of economic activity within the business community. Data furnished on this page and the following page are an aggregate of information supplied by the office of the Montana Secretary of State and the Montana Employment Security Division. These data should in no way be construed as being absolute. They are presented to indicate business trends during the survey period.

The chart on the following page is a break-down by county and labor market area of business starts in Montana during the current month and year to date, with a comparison to the previous year.

The following chart is a break-down of new businesses by industry, with a comparison to last year.

Industry	Sept. 1978	Sept. 1977	Year to Date 1978	Year to Date 1977
AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY, AND FISHERIES	16	10	280	209
MINING	10	7	88	105
CONTRACT CONSTRUCTION	58	66	774	685
MANUFACTURING	18	20	204	166
TRANSPORTATION, COMMUNICATION, ELECTRIC, GAS, AND SANITARY SERVICES	13	15	142	136
WHOLESALE AND RETAIL TRADE	76	107	1,039	952
FINANCE, INSURANCE, AND REAL ESTATE	29	40	365	335
SERVICES	87	115	1,191	1,036
GOVERNMENT	0	0	0	0
NOT ELSEWHERE CLASSIFIED	1	1	70	68
STATE TOTAL	308	381	4,153	3,692

TABLE XVIII

NEW BUSINESS FIRMS IN MONTANA

BY LABOR MARKET AREA

Areas	NEW BUSINESS FIRMS			
			Year to Date	
	Sept. 1978	Sept. 1977	1978	1977
STATE OF MONTANA	308	381	4153	3692
GREAT FALLS SMSA	24	36	356	409
BILLINGS SMSA	58	68	670	573
ANACONDA-BUTTE LMA	21	28	292	256
Beaverhead	4	4	49	34
Deer Lodge	6	5	23	29
Granite	2	0	11	6
Madison	1	3	33	27
Powell	2	1	31	18
Silver Bow	6	15	145	142
BOZEMAN LMA	27	30	436	342
Gallatin	21	28	353	270
Meagher	1	1	14	5
Park	5	1	69	67
GLASGOW LMA	4	7	106	104
Daniels	0	1	3	10
Phillips	1	4	12	16
Roosevelt	1	1	36	21
Sheridan	2	0	21	20
Valley	0	1	34	37
GLENDIVE LMA	14	12	164	127
Dawson	2	3	44	36
Garfield	0	1	8	6
McCone	1	0	6	9
Prairie	0	1	7	13
Richland	11	7	96	61
Wibaux	0	0	3	2
HARDIN-RED LODGE LMA	5	9	112	83
Big Horn	1	4	35	28
Carbon	4	3	36	28
Stillwater	0	2	23	19
Sweet Grass	0	0	18	8

Areas	NEW BUSINESS FIRMS			
			Year to Date	
	Sept. 1978	Sept. 1977	1978	1977
HAVRE LMA	5	6	121	120
Blaine	1	1	23	16
Hill	3	5	81	81
Liberty	1	0	17	23
HELENA LMA	29	28	323	290
Broadwater	0	0	13	17
Jefferson	2	0	39	17
Lewis and Clark	27	28	271	256
KALISPELL LMA	44	57	533	452
Flathead	29	34	366	309
Lake	8	13	91	81
Lincoln	7	10	76	62
LEWISTOWN LMA	5	8	88	87
Fergus	4	6	56	61
Golden Valley	0	0	2	3
Judith Basin	0	1	7	6
Musselshell	0	0	15	14
Petroleum	0	0	2	0
Wheatland	1	1	6	3
MILES CITY LMA	10	11	118	108
Carter	0	0	7	7
Custer	7	7	52	60
Fallon	1	1	14	9
Powder River	0	0	16	4
Rosebud	1	3	27	24
Treasure	1	0	2	4
MISSOULA LMA	50	71	649	591
Mineral	1	0	15	12
Missoula	32	53	471	440
Ravalli	13	13	120	97
Sanders	4	5	43	42
SHELBY-CUT BANK LMA	12	10	185	150
Chouteau	0	0	22	12
Glacier	7	6	51	34
Pondera	1	0	43	42
Teton	1	0	23	13
Toole	3	4	46	49

Source of data: State of Montana Employment Security Division, Research and Analysis Section; Montana Secretary of State.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE: CLAIM TO PAYMENT

Many of those persons who become separated from their jobs, enter our local Job Service offices for two reasons; to seek employment and to claim unemployment insurance (UI) benefits. Claimant wage credits obtained from insured employers are examined to determine if the claim meets monetary eligibility requirements for UI benefits and, if so, for how much per week and for how many potential weeks is the claimant qualified. Monetarily eligible claims are subsequently segregated according to criteria for establishing which party (claimant or employer) was most responsible for the job separation in question. Claims for job separations resulting from claimant actions (issues) are further subjected to the test of whether or not an individual's reduction in his potential benefit duration is warranted. If otherwise eligible and if availability criteria continue to be complied with throughout his actual unemployment duration, weekly benefit payments will commence with the claimant's second week of unemployment (a waiting week must be served under the Montana Law). The number and amount of such payments by county are shown in the table on the following page. Interstate payments in the table refer to payments made to individuals who now reside in other states but who had established wage credits in Montana based employment. Amounts shown in the table are financed through employer taxes paid to the Montana UI Trust Fund Account.

TABLE XIX

U.I.

1.

ETA5-1578 DISTRIBUTION OF UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE
SEPTEMBER 1978

COUNTY	COUNT	AMOUNT
BEAVERHEAD	41	3,420.80
BIGHORN	164	12,162.74
BLAINE	108	6,361.20
BROADWATER	41	3,313.00
CARBON	109	9,016.96
CARTER	16	1,103.00
CASCADE	2,459	190,319.08
CHOUTEAU	68	4,042.00
CUSTER	73	4,099.12
DANIELS	11	456.00
DAWSON	84	6,444.64
DEER LODGE	606	46,587.67
FALLON	26	2,465.00
FERGUS	110	10,269.33
FLATHEAD	1,150	85,749.41
GALLATIN	575	45,026.08
GARFIELD	7	394.00
GLACIER	669	44,631.03
GOLDEN VALLEY	5	124.00
GRANITE	125	10,327.64
HILL	166	11,769.57
JEFFERSON	192	17,032.00
JUDITH BASIN	32	1,824.00
LAKE	254	18,312.53
LEWIS AND CLARK	996	76,224.99
LIBERTY	7	295.00
LINCOLN	480	32,245.50
MCCONE	8	643.00
MADISON	36	2,741.86
MEAGHER	9	704.00
MINERAL	69	5,153.92
MISSOULA	2,192	167,216.24
MUSSELSHELL	35	2,501.00
PARK	173	11,368.59
PETROLEUM	2	114.00
PHILLIPS	53	3,710.00
PONDERA	52	4,038.00
POWDER RIVER	8	453.00
POWELL	152	9,866.41
PRAIRIE	1	104.00
RAVALLI	398	26,675.15
RICHLAND	21	1,382.00
ROOSEVELT	132	9,086.08
ROSEBUD	175	14,346.00
SANDERS	185	11,567.40
SHERIDAN	21	1,125.00
SILVER BOW	1,816	133,855.40
STILLWATER	47	3,230.00
SWEET GRASS	5	345.00
TETON	57	4,451.44
TOOLE	55	3,898.42
TREASURE	1	104.00
VALLEY	125	9,706.54
WHEATLAND	21	1,773.00
WIBAUX	11	801.00
YELLOWSTONE	2,043	160,020.48
INTRASTATE	16,487	1,237,034.21
INTERSTATE	1,040	130,169.88
TOTAL	17,527	1,367,204.09

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TABLE XX

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CUMULATIVE DISTRIBUTION OF UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE
JANUARY 1978 THRU SEPTEMBER 1978

COUNTY	COUNT	AMOUNT
BEAVERHEAD	1,857	139,109.73
BIGHORN	2,927	230,898.97
BLAINE	2,159	155,550.60
BROADWATER	726	56,455.74
CARBON	2,375	192,257.32
CARTER	227	16,242.00
CASCADE	29,821	2,137,184.55
CHOUTEAU	923	57,982.20
CUSTER	3,145	251,808.96
DANIELS	459	31,961.76
DAWSON	2,250	174,439.68
DEER LODGE	10,323	799,095.00
FALLON	729	53,276.04
FERGUS	3,520	274,316.36
FLATHEAD	22,081	1,594,434.25
GALLATIN	10,904	836,915.40
GARFIELD	192	14,052.63
GLACIER	6,686	497,468.45
GOLDEN VALLEY	126	7,652.00
GRANITE	1,455	112,042.86
HILL	4,424	327,694.09
JEFFERSUN	2,182	185,898.66
JUDITH BASIN	873	72,807.21
LAKE	5,857	421,777.31
LEWIS AND CLARK	16,262	1,283,299.47
LIBERTY	417	31,986.00
LINCOLN	11,527	897,454.18
MCCONE	453	37,053.00
MADISON	925	70,826.13
MEAGHER	585	45,194.44
MINERAL	1,485	117,300.85
MISSOULA	28,680	2,118,570.22
MUSSELSHELL	1,026	81,503.68
PARK	4,151	292,143.23
PETROLEUM	42	3,877.00
PHILLIPS	1,333	97,153.25
PONDERA	1,383	108,201.75
POWDER RIVER	177	16,657.00
POWELL	2,739	204,783.97
PRAIRIE	431	38,626.00
RAVALLI	7,019	490,496.48
RICHLAND	1,313	100,419.20
ROOSEVELT	2,676	180,679.83
ROSEBUD	3,024	246,239.84
SANDERS	4,267	328,765.77
SHERIDAN	598	39,889.04
SILVER BOW	26,681	2,044,063.72
STILLWATER	1,185	94,622.28
SWEET GRASS	340	24,743.00
TETON	1,159	86,057.63
TOOLE	1,473	114,023.16
TREASURE	205	19,818.00
VALLEY	3,855	278,633.51
WHEATLAND	418	34,105.00
WIBAUX	179	13,316.00
YELLOWSTONE	32,913	2,623,465.81
INTRASTATE	274,502	21,206,267.14
INTERSTATE	15,216	1,681,601.22
TOTAL	289,718	22,887,868.36

SELECTED UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE ACTIVITIES IN MONTANA

YEAR-TO-DATE

	1978	1977	Net Change	Percent Change
Initial Claims[1]	32,736	34,696	-1,960	*-5.6*
Continued Claims[1]	362,470	334,215	28,255	*8.4*
Number of Benefit Payments[1]	289,859	299,702	-9,843	*-3.3*
Amount of Benefits Paid[1]	$22,887,906	$22,634,941	$252,965	*1.1*
Average Weekly Benefit Amount[1/2]	$83.98	$78.97	$5.01	*6.3*

MONTHLY

	September 1978	August 1978	September 1977	Change From Year Ago Net	Percent
Initial Claims[1]	2,114	2,590	2,488	-374	*-15.0*
Continued Claims[1]	22,615	33,936	29,712	-7,097	*-23.9*
Number of Benefit Payments[1]	17,527	25,792	23,005	-5,478	*-23.8*
Amount of Benefits Paid[1]	$1,367,204	$1,908,085	$1,697,177	-$329,973	*-19.4*
Avg. Weekly Benefit Amt[1/2]	$82.22	$76.80	$78.90	$3.32	*4.2*
Trust Fund Balance	$2,829,568*	$4,355,916*	-$1,528,746**	$4,358,314	*285.1*

1/ Regular Unemployment Insurance Program only.
2/ Derived according to definition in "Handbook of Unemployment Insurance Financial Data".
** Excludes Loans from Federal Government, which amount to $10,484,089.*
*** Excludes Loans from Federal Government, which amount to $ 9,284,089.*

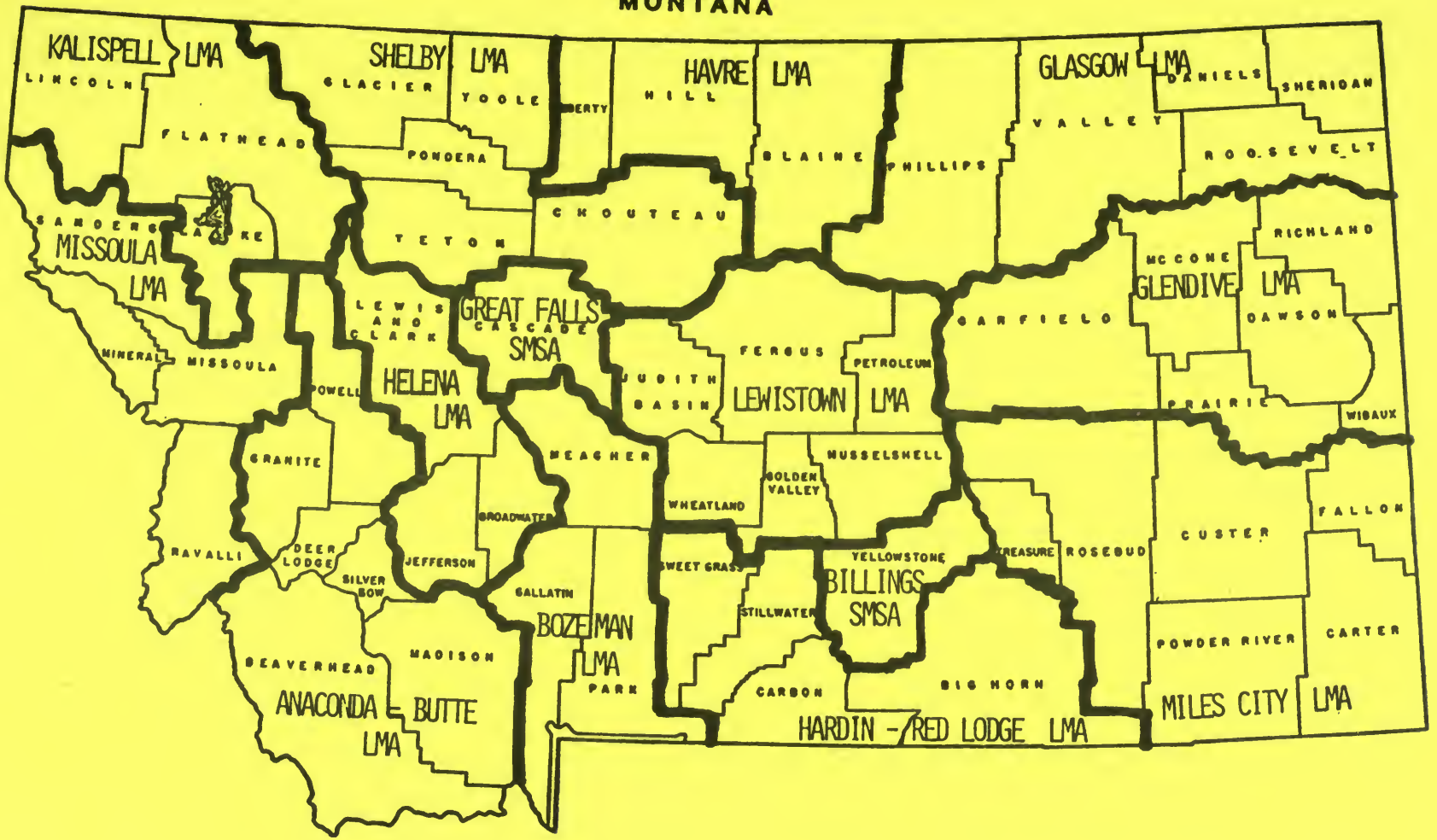
The initial claims and continued claims totals both decreased significantly from September of a year ago and from last month. Initial claims continued to lag behind last year's year-to-date total, whereas continued claims are still running ahead of the 1977 year-to-date total.

The number of benefit payments and the amount of benefits paid dropped considerably from August of this year and September of 1977. The year-to-date figures show the number of benefit payments trailing the total at this point last year, but the amount of benefits paid are narrowly ahead of the 1977 total.

The average weekly benefit amount (AWBA) changed course from the preceding months, rising by $5.42 from August. The year-to-date AWBA continues to outpace last year's total by just over $5.00.

The trust fund balance decreased from August, but it appears healthier than a year ago at this time, when the balance stood at a negative (-) $1.5 million.

LABOR MARKET AREAS IN MONTANA



EMPLOYMENT SECURITY DIVISION
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRY
P. O. Box 1728
Helena, MT 59601

POSTAGE AND FEES PAID
EMPLOYMENT SECURITY
LAB-449

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OFFICIAL BUSINESS

The Montana State Employment Security Division maintains 23 local Job Service Offices in the principal cities of Montana. You are invited to call on any of these offices for assistance in filling positions in your organization, additional labor market information, and for other services in connection with your employment problems.